AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE IBF SCANDAL

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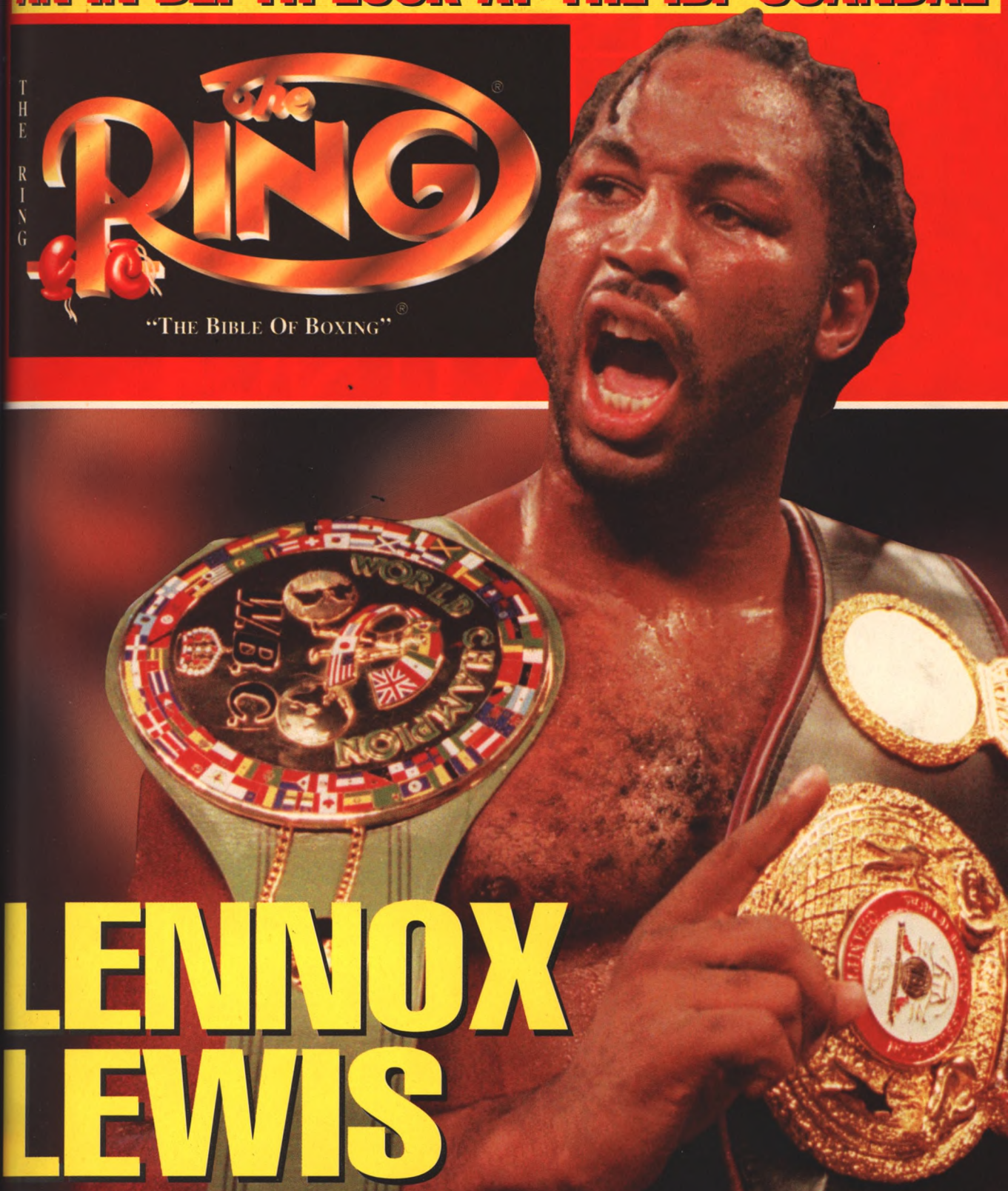

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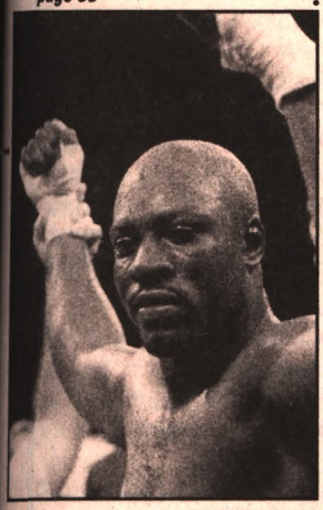

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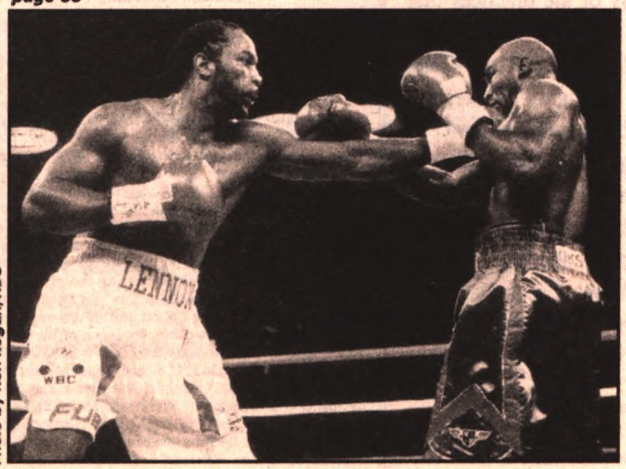

Photo by Ken Regan/HBO

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Photo by Marty Rosengarten

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RINGSIDE

I don't know whether or not the federal government has the proof it needs to convict IBF President Bob Lee and his fellow indictees on the racketeering charges outlined in "Boxing Rocked By Federal Indictments: An In-Depth Look At The IBF Scandal" *(page 30)*. But I have to admit that I'm dubious of any governmental attempt to clean up the sport—and what happened to the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act in late-November only served to increase my skepticism.

With time running out, the bill's sponsors, Senator John McCain and Senator Richard Bryan, hoped to obtain a quick Senate vote and have the bill on President Clinton's desk before Congress recessed. But two unidentified Democratic Senators put a hold on the Ali Act, which prevented it from passing during the 1999 session. Here's what happened:

Even though the bill had already passed the Senate and the House of Representatives earlier in the year, the House made a few changes, and the bill went back to the Senate for final approval shortly before the year-end holiday break. That's when an arcane Senate rule that permits Senators to put a bill on hold without revealing their identity was used to stall the vote. This sort of anonymous action is only effective for a few days, but a few days was all the bill's opponents needed before everybody went home until January 2000.

Although McCain said that he intends to make passage of the bill his "top priority" in 2000, he's going to need help, and that's where readers of THE RING can make a difference. You hear a lot about special interest groups influencing what goes on on Capitol Hill, and I don't see any reason why boxing fans can't form their own special interest group. I'm not suggesting that we pool our resources, hire a lobbyist, and start funneling huge amounts of money into various politicians' campaign coffers. What I am advocating, however, is that every one of you, regardless of your political philosophy on other matters, contact both of your home-state Senators and urge them to vote in favor of the Ali Act.

This recommendation doesn't mean that I believe all of boxing's problems will disappear if the Ali Act becomes law. The bill isn't perfect, and besides, it's going to take a helluva lot more than an act of Congress to reverse almost 300 years of corruption. But regardless of any shortcomings, the Ali Act will provide law enforcement with new weapons with which to combat the white-collar crime that's rampant within the industry. Promoters, managers, and the alphabet organizations will all be under much closer scrutiny, prevented by law from engaging in many of the practices that have been detrimental to the sport.

Should the Ali Act become law, it's critical that it be enforced vigorously—and equitably. The latter point is especially crucial because it will be highly counterproductive if authorities hound struggling club-show promoters, while turning a blind eye to the abuses of the rich and powerful. This is one of the main reasons I'm leery of governmental meddling in the Sweet Science, and the way the Ali Act got the Ali shuffle in November reinforced my feeling. Even so, boxing has done such an appalling job of policing its own house, it's time to give the feds a chance.

But first things first. If the Ali Act never passes, we might have lost the last best chance to make boxing all that we want it to be. And for the price of two 33-cent stamps (or by email at www.senate.gov), you can do your part. Write today.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

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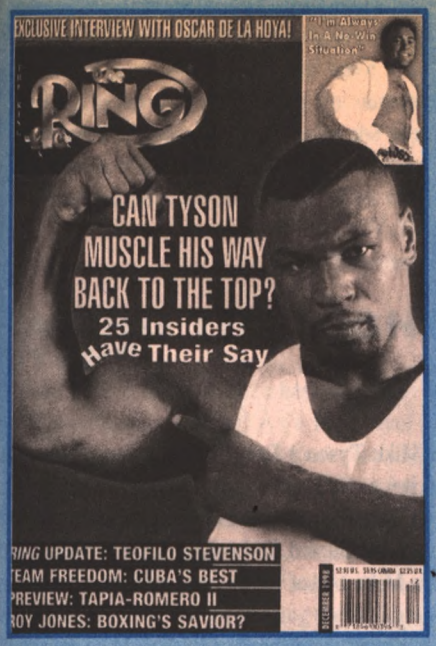

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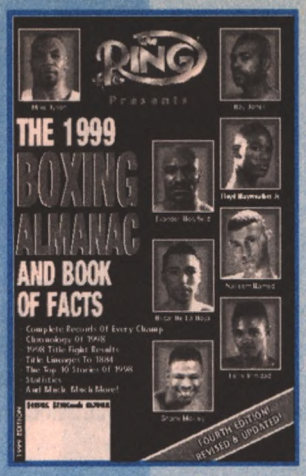

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. The opinions expressed by our readers in their letters to the editor are not necessarily the opinions of THE RING or its publisher. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

MIKE MISTREATED?

I am very upset at the outcome and reaction over Mike Tyson's latest fight. While I feel it was wrong for Mike to hit Orlin Norris after the bell, I feel it was far worse for the Nevada State Athletic Commission to temporarily withhold his purse and hold a meeting to decide what they were going to do. Referee Richard Steele ruled it an accidental foul and deducted two points. Case closed, right? Wrong! The Nevada State Athletic Commission wants Mike out of Vegas, and will do whatever it takes to make him look as bad as they can.

Hitting after the bell is a foul, but it has occured in almost every boxing match I have ever seen. If Tyson had done what another great fighter, Naseem Hamed, did in his fight against Cesar Soto the night before, he undoubtedly would have been disqualified and banned from boxing. Hitting after the bell is done to send a message to the other fighter, to give him something to think about between rounds. It is done all of the time and usually only receives a warning from the referee.

While it is unfortunate Orlin hurt his knee, the treatment of Mike by the commission was far worse. What is just as unfortunate is that in the three minutes Mike was in the ring, he looked good. He was going to the body, moving his head, jabbing his way in, and throwing combinations instead of loading up. He was not nearly as wild as he had been in previous fights, and stayed compact even when he was missing a few punches. What makes this so disappointing is that Mike was very cordial the whole week of the fight and also seemed very enthusiastic about boxing for the first time in a long while. Mike, please stay and win back the undisputed title. You have a lot of support from a lot of people who know you were treated badly this time and want you to be champion.

KEVIN POORMAN
Severna Park, MD

Oscar De La Hoya showed class in losing to Felix Trinidad, says reader Tracy Jenkins. More fighters should take a tip from "The Golden Boy," states Jenkins, and stop looking for excuses and complaining after a loss.

FOLLOW OSCAR'S LEAD

Every boxer in the sport should take notice of the way Oscar De La Hoya handled his first professional loss. He didn't lose his temper like Mike Tyson. He didn't whine and cry like Pernell Whitaker. He took it like a man.

Everyone, including Oscar, knows who won that fight, but instead of complaining and belly-aching, he acknowledged Felix

Trinidad as a great fighter and made his exit. Although it's sad to see the best fighter in the world get robbed in a fight he should have won, it is refreshing to see a fighter accept the outcome with such grace and style. No matter what the scorecards said, Oscar is still the true champion, and the way he carries himself puts him in a league of his own.

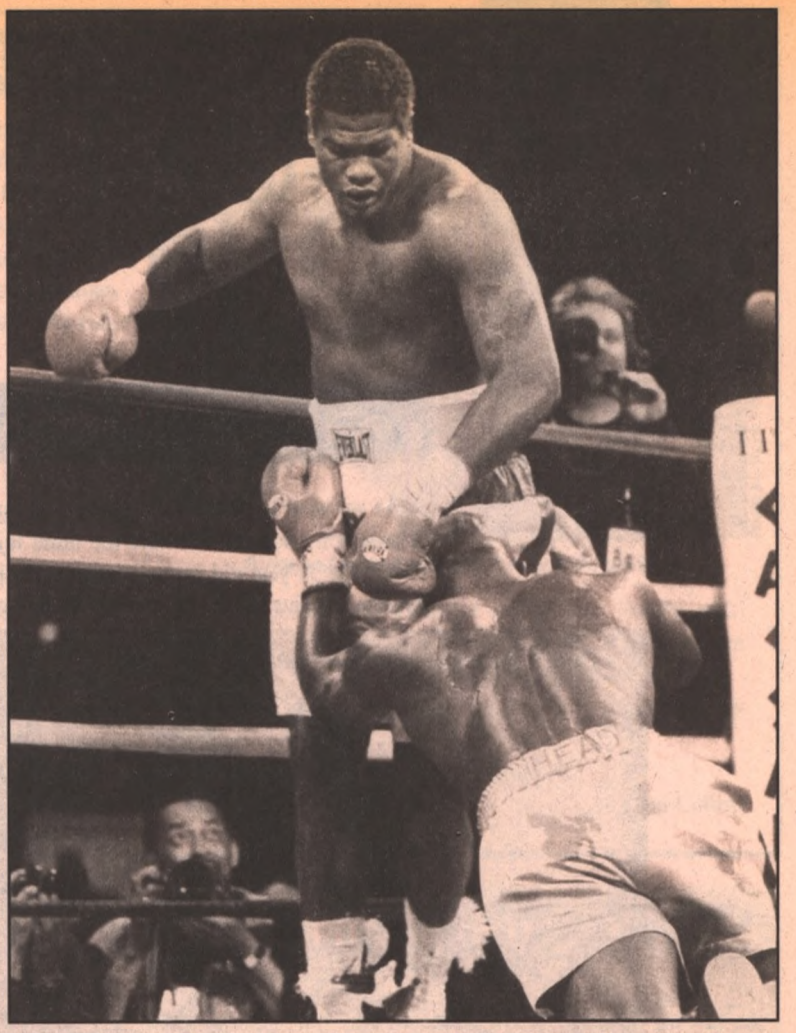
TRACY JENKINS
Salyersville, KY

TAKING THE RIGHT STEPS

I am glad to see that there has been some movement in reforming boxing. As a fan, I feel robbed and cheated because the best fighters rarely fight one another. The WBC, WBA, and IBF ratings are a joke. Their ranking systems are so biased, they are pathetic. In the 1940s and '50s, they had one recognized world champion. Why can't we have one world champion as we are nearing the millennium?

I feel a lot of great matchups were lost in the '90s because of boxing's present system. For example, we never did see Riddick Bowe against Lennox Lewis, Terry Norris vs. Pernell Whitaker, and Mike Tyson against Bowe or Lewis. The reasons are all because of money and politics. We need just one boxing organization that runs boxing properly and creates the best possible matches. What hurts boxing is what other sports thrive off of. The best teams play each other in the NFL, NBA, and NHL championship games. Why can't we have the best boxers fight each other in a championship tournament? Could you imagine how many more wayward boxing fans would come back and follow the sport if that happened?

DARNELL LAWRENCE
Moreno Valley, CA



The organizations of boxing have deprived its fans throughout the 1990s of great matchups, reader Darnell Lawrence feels. It's a shame that Riddick Bowe, pictured in his third fight against Evander Holyfield, never got a chance to fight Lennox Lewis or Mike Tyson.

WE DON'T KNOW JACK

In your article "The 20 Greatest Fighters Of The 20th Century" (October 1999), I was dismayed by your comments concerning Jack Johnson. To say that he would have been easily beaten by Larry Holmes and George Foreman does not square with the facts. Holmes was a great fighter, tall and fast, and a decent puncher. But Johnson would have a 50-50 chance of beating him. George Foreman, even the 1970s version, was a limited fighter. He could not box, did not know how to throw a punch, and had no stamina. Johnson boxed 20 rounds against Frank Moran with ease weighing 221 pounds. Foreman would have had to overwhelm Johnson within seven rounds. If he didn't, he would fall apart. With so many big heavyweights around today, would Johnson's superior defensive skills have been enough? No one could say, but Johnson's skills would have beaten Gene Tunney and Rocky Marciano, and he would have had a 50-50 chance against Muhammad Ali, Holmes, Dempsey, and Joe Louis.

ABRAHAM MILES
Birmingham, England

FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES

I teach in a community with a large Spanish-speaking population, and that's a great thing if you like talking to people who get excited about boxing. After watching the robbery between Oscar De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad, I was eager to confront my Hispanic students and ask them who they thought won the fight. I was really hoping for some lively bantering with the loyal Trinidadians.

"Who won the fight?" I asked.

"Trinidad," was the quick reply.

"No," I'd say and do my best I'm-a-teacher-and-you-have-to-tell-me-the-truth stare. "Who *really* won the fight?"

The majority of the young fans—their loyalty to the winner and not their countryman—smirked and admitted that Oscar won more rounds. Most noted that Don King walked Trinidad to the ring, as if the fight had ended right then and there. Only a few retreated behind the phrase, "You don't win by running away." But what you do win by is admitting the truth.

JOHN REEVES
Harrington Park, NJ ■

ROUND ONE

DEJA VU DISASTER

As we went to press, Stephan Johnson was still clinging to life in the intensive care unit of an Atlantic City hospital. Besides the brain injury he suffered in his November 20 bout with Paul Vaden, the 31-year-old junior middleweight is also battling pneumonia and a fever of 102 degrees. Johnson remains in the coma he lapsed into after being stopped in the 10th round of a fight he was winning on two of the three official scorecards, and so far doctors have been unable to make a long-range prognosis.

Johnson is stretchered off following collapse

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

"We're just taking it hour by hour, crisis by crisis," said Johnson's trainer, Kenny Woods.

The Vaden-Johnson bout for the USBA 154-pound title was the semifinal on the Michael Grant-Andrew Golota card at the Trump Taj Mahal Mark G. Etess Arena. It was a close fight after nine rounds, and although Vaden's punches always seemed a bit sharper, Johnson's busy workrate and body-punching had him ahead by margins of 87-85 and 86-85 on two cards, while he trailed by one point, 86-85, on the third.

With less than a minute to go in the 10th round, Vaden caught Johnson on the chin with a straight left. The punch didn't appear devastating, but the instant it connected, Johnson began to collapse like a puppet with its strings cut. Vaden, 29-2 (15), stepped in, missed a right, and then clipped his already falling opponent with a left hook. Johnson, 27-9-1 (18), toppled into the ropes, hitting his neck on one of the strands before crumpling to the floor. Referee Earl Morton immediately stopped the fight at the 2:24 mark, and ringside physicians rushed to the stricken fighter's aid. About 15 minutes later, Johnson was on his way to the Atlantic City Medical Center, an oxygen mask strapped to his face, anxious family members by his side.

"Paul told me he had hit Stephan with a uppercut on the inside shortly before the knockdown," said Vaden's manager, Grant Elvis Phillips, "and that he felt Stephan's body go limp."

Regardless of what punch led to Johnson's injury, it's beginning to look like he might have entered the ring damaged goods. He had suffered an eerily similar episode in an April 1999 bout against Fitz Vanderpool in Toronto. According to Woods, Johnson was winning the fight when he inexplicably lost consciousness and slumped to the floor in the 11th round.

"He just fell apart, and died," said Woods of Johnson's sudden collapse against Vanderpool.

Johnson was also taken to the hospital that night, but was released after several hours. A CATscan showed no damage, and Johnson won two subsequent bouts prior to facing Vaden.

"Stephan understood his role in boxing these days," said Woods. "He knew he was just an opponent, but he was trying hard to get back into contention, to make the big money. But that's not important anymore. His life is worth more than $10,000 [his purse for the Vaden fight] or any title."

—Nigel Collins

MINOR MAYHEM

As far as boxing riots are concerned, it wasn't anywhere near as explosive as the free-for-all that followed the first Riddick Bowe-Andrew Golota foulfest at Madison Square Garden. But don't tell that to referee Steve Smoger, who was clunked in the back of the head by a flying chair when an unscheduled brawl erupted at the conclusion of the Oleg Maskaev-Hasim Rahman shootout at Boardwalk Convention Center in Atlantic City *(see page 24 for full account of the bout).*

Highly favored Rahman was already groggy when Maskaev blasted him through the ropes with a right to the chin in the eighth round. The stricken fighter slid onto a ringside table, knocked it over, and then crashed to the floor. A TV monitor that was sitting on the table also hit the deck, but not before bouncing off the back of Rahman's legs.

The instant Rahman went through the ropes, two things happened almost simultaneously. Somebody hurled a chair, blindsiding Smoger who was sitting ringside with his back to audience, and a group of Rahman supporters rushed the ring, trampling anybody who got in their way. In a matter of seconds, practically everybody on that side of the ring was caught up in the ruckus. Spectators fought each other and security guards for approximately 10 minutes with little regard for the Marquis of Queensberry's rules of engagement. Finally, additional police were called in from the street to help restore order, and two men were arrested for disorderly conduct.

Photo by Frank Vitucci

Police and security struggle to control the chaos

"It was a complete melee," said police Sergeant Guy Curcione.

Obviously, he hadn't seen Bowe-Golota I.

—Nigel Collins

NOTHING TRIVIAL ABOUT "TIGER TED"

"Tiger" Ted Lowry, the journeyman heavyweight who carved a niche in boxing history by twice going the 10-round distance with Rocky Marciano, was honored at a testimonial dinner and roast to celebrate his 80th birthday in Stamford, Connecticut, on October 30. Although Lowry is the faceless answer to an often-asked trivia question, his life reads like an epic novel. With virtually no amateur experience, he turned professional in 1940 and amassed a deceiving record of 55-66-9 (37) during his 15-year career. He was only stopped three times while tangling with a veritable who's who of top-flight fighters. One of the men to stop him, Harry "Kid" Matthews of Everett, Washington, sent his best wishes through an intermediary and jokingly asked for a rematch.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Lowry (right) celebrates his 80th with fellow ex-fighter Keene Simmons

Lowry served in the 555 Parachute Infantry Battalion, the first black paratrooper battalion of World War II, and has been a longtime football and boxing coach in his adopted hometown of Norwalk, Connecticut. Still incredibly fit, it is difficult to tell he is the veteran of so many ring battles. Not only is he extremely lucid, his handsome face is all but unmarked. Married to his second wife, Alice, for 35 years, he still works full-time as a glass installer.

In a letter from President Bill Clinton, Lowry was lauded for his military exploits and his altruistic endeavors on behalf of the youth of Norwalk. A stirring testimonial was personally delivered by Congressman Christopher Shays, and Lowry was issued a Proclamation from Norwalk Mayor Frank J. Esposito. He also received an Award for Distinguished Service from the Triple Nickel Association, the alumni group of his paratrooper battalion, and a commemorative letter from the International Boxing Hall of Fame. "I am just overwhelmed by this show of love and support," said a tearful Lowry.

"There are few words to describe what a unique individual Ted Lowry is," said boxing historian Mike Silver, who was in attendance. "If he had come up through the ranks under different circumstances, he probably could have been a champion in an era when that meant something. He never won a title, but has lived his life like a true champion. By any standard of measure, he is a champion in every sense of the word."

—Robert Mladinich

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
11-5-99	Andrew Murray KO 3 Michael Covington	ESPN2	w	C+	B+	B
Single left hand from Murray stretches overrated Covington for count						
11-5-99	Dana Rosenblatt W 12 Vinny Pazienza	ESPN2	sm	A-	B+	B
Rosenblatt climbs off canvas, gets revenge with workman-like performance						
11-6-99	Hector Camacho Jr. KO 3 Juan Rodriguez	Tel	jw	C+	C	C-
Oh, now we understand why the WBA has rated Camacho their number-one junior welter ...						
11-6-99	Derrick Jefferson KO 6 Maurice Harris	HBO	h	B+	A-	A
Jefferson ends wild, see-saw battle with titanic left hook; watch this guy						
11-6-99	Oleg Maskaev KO 8 Hasim Rahman	HBO	h	B+	A-	B+
Maskaev proves grit in come-from-behind knockout win						
11-12-99	Oktay Urkal W 6 Oscar Gonzales	ESPN2	jw	C-	B+	C
This isn't the Urkal you're thinking of, and he can fight a little, too						
11-12-99	Wladimir Klitschko KO 2 Phil Jackson	ESPN2	h	C+	B-	D+
We expected Jackson to be more competitive; can Klitschko be that strong?						
11-12-99	Junior Jones W 10 Tracy Patterson	ESPN2	f	C	A	C
Jones is effective when he boxes, but he sure is more fun to watch when he punches						
11-13-99	Josue Blocus KO 1 Clarence Goins	PPV	h	C-	C	C+
A French heavyweight? What's next, Butterbean against a top contender?						
11-13-99	**Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Elio Ortiz**	**PPV**	**WBA jw**	**A**	**C-**	**C+**
Credit Mitchell for the win, but criminy, can't he ever make it look easy?						
11-13-99	**Fabrice Tiozzo KO 7 Ken Murphy**	**PPV**	**WBA c**	**A**	**D**	**C-**
Shame on Tiozzo for letting woefully underpowered Murphy make it to the seventh						
11-13-99	**Lennox Lewis W 12 Evander Holyfield**	**PPV**	**Unified h**	**A+**	**A**	**B-**
Wouldn't this be more fun if Lewis weren't so bloody boring?						
11-14-99	John-John Molina W 10 Manuel Garnica	FOXSN	l	C+	C-	C
Molina, steady as ever, works his way to clear decision win						
11-14-99	Jorge Luis Gonzalez W 10 Greg Page	FOXSN	h	D	C+	B
Believe it or not, Page made this exciting with late rally						
11-19-99	Mbulelo Botile W 10 Hector Lizarraga	ESPN2	f	B+	A-	B+
If you like watching two guys who can really fight, this was your kind of scrap						
11-19-99	**Mark Johnson No-Contest 4 Raul Juarez**	**ESPN2**	**IBF jb**	**A**	**D+**	**D-**
Can someone tell us why Johnson isn't fighting legitimate contenders?						
11-20-99	Joel Casamayor W 12 David Santos	FOXSN	jl	B+	B-	B
Casamayor boxes to smart decision win; title shot up next						
11-20-99	Michael Grant KO 10 Andrew Golota	HBO	h	A+	A	A-
Timber! Grant floored in first, but late rally convinces "Foul Pole" to surrender						
11-26-99	Bones Adams W 10 Aristead Clayton	ESPN2	f	C+	B+	C
Adams pounds out solid win with steady body attack						
11-26-99	Antonio Diaz KO 7 Terrell Finger	ESPN2	jw	B+	C+	B
Floored in second, Diaz wears down Finger to get late kayo; is Kostya Tszyu next?						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox SportsNet; Uni—Univision; Tel—Telemundo

THE RETURN OF THE PROFESSIONAL

In March of 1954, writer W.C. Heinz was walking across London's Grosvenor Square with heavyweight contender Roland LaStarza. Defeated the year before in his challenge for Rocky Marciano's heavyweight title, LaStarza was unhappy with his career and was in the midst of a recitation of all his professional disappointments when Heinz interrupted him.

"Dammit, Rollie, you're ranked second in your profession," he said. "I can't imagine being ranked second in mine."

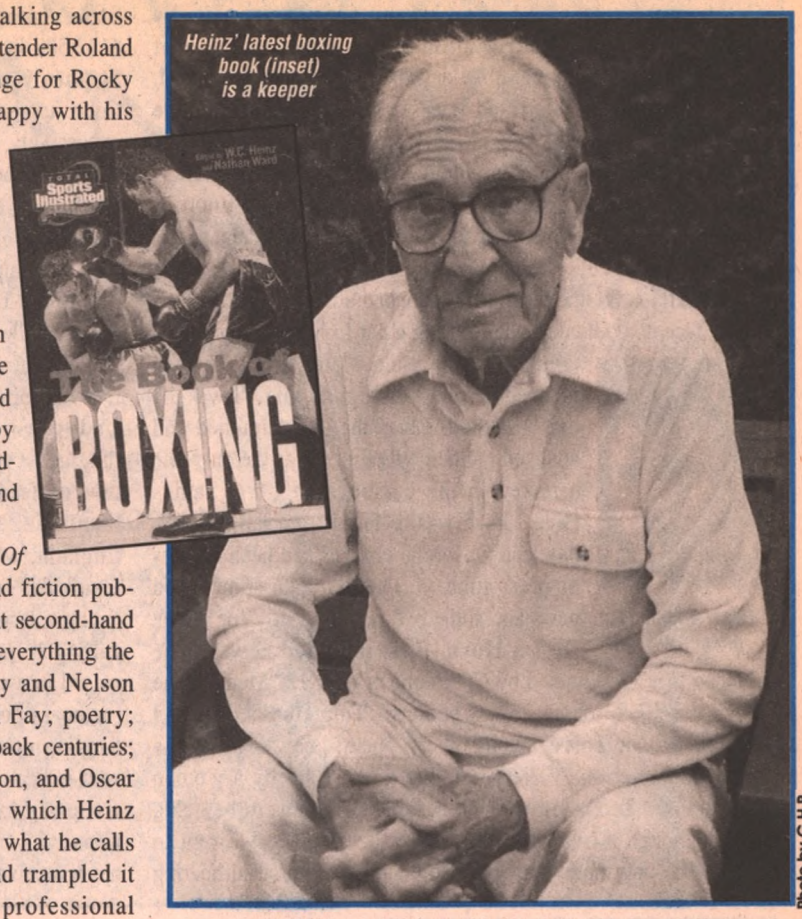
Anyone familiar with Heinz' work has no such problem where he is concerned, and the appearance of *The Book Of Boxing* (Total Sports Illustrated Classics, 352 pages, $24.95 hardcover), edited by Heinz and Nathan Ward, deserves to boost his pound-for-pen ranking still higher with fans of boxing and great writing.

It is an updated version of Heinz' *Fireside Book Of Boxing*, the prized anthology of ring journalism and fiction published 38 years ago for which collectors now haunt second-hand shops. Content-wise, the new version has almost everything the original had—short stories by Ernest Hemingway and Nelson Algren, and the classic "Hello Joe" by William Fay; poetry; superb newspaper and magazine reportage going back centuries; plus new pieces about Muhammad Ali, Mike Tyson, and Oscar De La Hoya. Best of all, it has a new preface in which Heinz tweaks the bouffants and buffoons who've taken what he calls "the most fundamental form of competition" and trampled it "down to the level of a demolition derby or professional wrestling."

The appearance in print of anything by Heinz is cause for celebration in fight and literary circles. He is also the author of *The Professional*, often and accurately described as the best novel ever written about boxing. And the sport is nobly represented in others of his widely praised anthologies, including *American Mirror* and *Once They Heard The Cheers*. Someone I know loved the latter so much that when he was married, he gave copies to each of his groomsmen. (Okay, it was me, but 18 years later, they're still thanking me.)

Heinz' influence on writing and journalism in general may be gauged by the extensive homage paid him by David Halberstam in the latter's preface in the current tome *The Best American Sports Writing Of The Century*, which includes several of Heinz' magazine pieces, among them the justly celebrated "Brownville Bum."

Almost a half-century ago, the now 84-year-old Heinz was also, briefly, a regular contributor of features to THE RING about the likes of Marciano, Billy Graham, Harry "Kid" Matthews, and such diverse ring personages as Dr. Vincent Nardiello and early-20th century punching bag Joe Grim. Although he remembers those long-ago efforts as "training exercises" for the broader features he went on to write for such general interest publications as the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Look*, and *Life*, Heinz also recalls the rounds he put in at "The Bible Of Boxing" with gratitude.



"When the *New York Sun* [for which he was a star columnist in the late-'40s] folded on January 4, 1950, and I started to freelance full-time, I began keeping a record of sales," he recalled. "On July 5, 1951, I received from THE RING $50 for the Grim article. Fifty dollars? Understand this: The *Sun* paid me $110 for five columns a week, or $22 a column. The New York *Daily News*, then with the largest circulation in the country, tried to get me to do six columns a week for $200, or $33.33 a column. THE RING's $50 was most welcome."

These days, Heinz is hopeful, but not optimistic, that *The Professional* will be translated to the big screen. Hollywood has optioned the novel four different times, but nothing has come of it, largely because, as actor Walter Matthau once said of the book, "It's too damned good."

"They don't do contemplative things today," Heinz said. "It's all loud noise."

The current state of boxing, whose art he explains and defends in *The Professional* better than has been done anywhere else, is also cause for mild despair.

"Once I hoped that when my time came to go, I would die at ringside at a heavyweight championship fight," Heinz said. "And now I can't even name the champion. Only part of that is due to the softening of my squash."

—Pete Ehrmann

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

While **Mike Tyson** couldn't quite settle matters inside the ring with **Orlin Norris**, he did settle some other business in late-October when a sexual battery lawsuit filed against him by female photographer **Ladywautusa Je** was settled out of court for an undisclosed amount three days before it was to go to trial. Je said that when she posed with Tyson for two photos, he pinned her against him, lifted her left leg, raised her blouse, and ordered someone to "take a picture of this" ... WBA welterweight champion **James Page** was arrested in Concord, California, in early-November for public drunkenness and suspicion of battery. Police said Page, whose blood-alcohol level was 0.15, nearly twice the legal limit, punched a 21-year-old woman in the face and pulled her hair during a bar fight, but Page maintained his innocence. "I touched no one. I grabbed no one," the fighter said. "I was the one assaulted. I was the one scratched and attacked on the pool table. I was the only one arrested in the bar because I was James Page." Page was released from jail the next day, and no formal charges had been filed as of press time ... There's been some good news and some bad news recently for **Oscar De La Hoya**. First the good news: "The Golden Boy" was named by *GQ* as one of their 12 "Men Of The Year" for 1999, joining fellow honorees **Tom Hanks**, **Michael J. Fox**, and **Joe Torre**, among others. The bad news—news of a much more serious variety—is that a suit filed by a woman alleging that De La Hoya raped her in 1996 seems to be going ahead, though a trial date had not yet been set as we went to press. The only noteworthy development at the pretrial hearing in late-October was that a judge upheld De La Hoya's refusal to answer questions about his sexual history ... Veteran referee **Steve Smoger** cost the city of Pleasantville, New Jersey, $142,500 in October when a case filed by construction worker **Stephen Gamble** was settled out of court. Smoger, a Municipal Court judge when he's not refereeing, had a reputation for being excessively strict with regard to courtroom tardiness, and he issued a bench warrant to Gamble for showing up five minutes late to answer a motor vehicle violation in September '97. The Supreme Court had ruled in '92 that issuing warrants for lateness was improper. The outstanding warrant led to future complications for Gamble, and he ended up suing the city of Pleasantville and making big money ... The partnership between ESPN2's *Friday Night Fights* and sponsor Budweiser ended in late-October, and Miller Lite has now replaced "The Undisputed, Undefeated King Of Beers" as the show's sponsor ... A pair of gutsy longtime contenders both announced their retirements in November. **Billy Hardy** of England, who twice challenged **Orlando Canizales** for the IBF bantamweight title, losing a razor-thin decision the first time, is calling it quits at the age of 35. His final record in a career that included a number of regional titles in Europe is 37-9-2 (17). Also hanging up the gloves is Idaho cruiserweight **Kenny Keene**, who indicated prior to his November 12 decision win over **Rob Calloway** that it would be his farewell fight. The hard-nosed Keene, 31, held several minor belts in his 47-3 (26) career, but never received a world title shot.

Page: Arrested for alleged assault

Keene: The blood stops here

THE PUNCHLINES

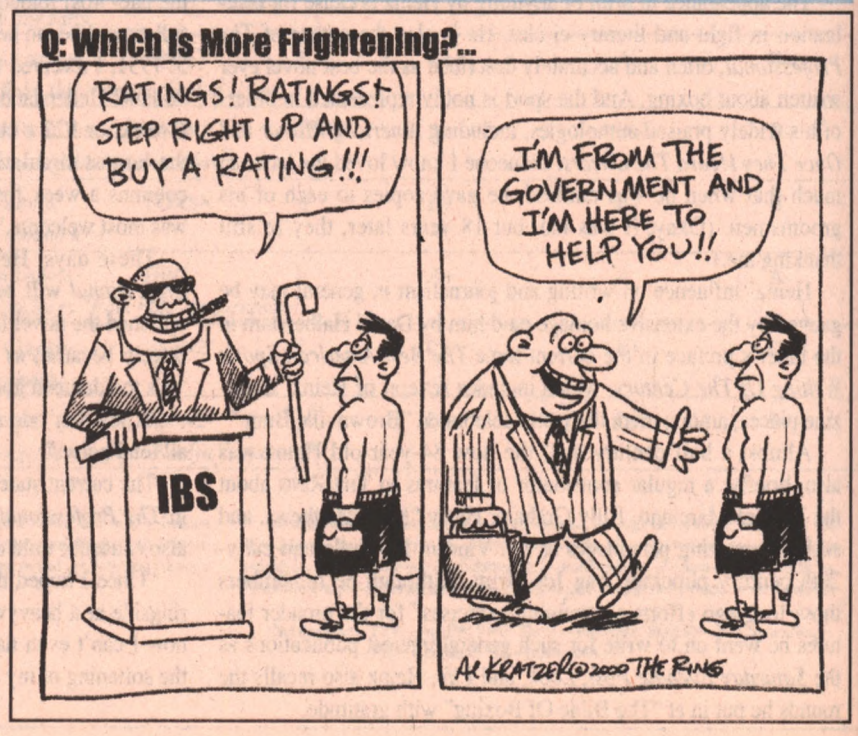
"Obviously he's not the sharpest marble in the box, because he's taking this fight again."

—Vinny Pazienza, on Dana Rosenblatt, in the ESPN2 *Friday Night Fights* studio the week before their fight

"I'll come to do my best, and when I come to do my best, bad things happen to the other side."

—Roy Jones, at a press conference for his January fight with David Telesco

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



The RING®
"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

(For period ended November 30, 1999)

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Junior Lightweight
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
4. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Welterweight
5. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Welterweight
6. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Junior Bantamweight
7. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Junior Flyweight
8. **ERIK MORALES**
   Junior Featherweight
9. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Middleweight
10. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
    Lightweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Michael Grant's up-from-the-floor TKO of Andrew Golota was enough to lift Grant from fourth to third, passing inactive Ike Ibeabuchi, who slipped from third to fourth. Golota falls from seventh to eighth. Oleg Maskaev debuts at 10th based on his knockout of Hasim Rahman, who was number nine last issue and is now gone. Another new entry is undefeated Derrick Jefferson, currently holding down the ninth spot thanks to his stirring kayo of Maurice Harris. Kirk Johnson (10th last issue) exits to make room.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Kenny Keene (10th last issue) has retired. His place is taken by British veteran Carl Thompson.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Graciano Rocchigiani dips from third to fifth after twice pulling out of title fights with Roy Jones, and if the German doesn't fight soon, he'll be removed altogether. Rocchigiani's demotion elevates Lou Del Valle from fourth to third, and Reggie Johnson from fifth to fourth. Del Valle, however, has been inactive and is in danger of being dropped.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Busy IBF champ Sven Ottke overtakes Joe Calzaghe, who has been idled by injuries, for the number-one position. Calzaghe drops to second.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Armand Krajnc enters at eighth, and Jason Matthews (eighth last issue) is out due to his kayo loss to Krajnc.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes, but sixth-ranked Vince Phillips is scheduled to fight Vernon Forrest at welterweight, and will probably permanently move up in weight class if he wins.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Gilbert Serrano knocked out Stefano Zoff to win the WBA title, and enters the rankings at number six, while Zoff falls from sixth to 10th. Julien Lorcy (seventh last issue), whom Zoff beat for the title, is gone.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No changes.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: New IBF champ Paul Ingle is aboard at number four after outpointing Manuel Medina, who drops from seventh to ninth. Unbeaten Angel Vazquez (ninth last issue) didn't have a significant fight in 1999, and exits to make room for Ingle.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: Kennedy McKinney (sixth last issue) departs after losing to opponent-type Jorge Paredes. Consequently, Enrique Sanchez, Antonio Cermeno, Carlos Navarro, and Juan Carlos Ramirez all move up one notch. Rounding out the top 10 is undefeated newcomer Michael Brodie.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: A loss to Pedro Torres drops Dario Azuaga (ninth last issue) out of the ratings. Back at number 10 is streaking veteran Cuauhtemoc Gomez.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

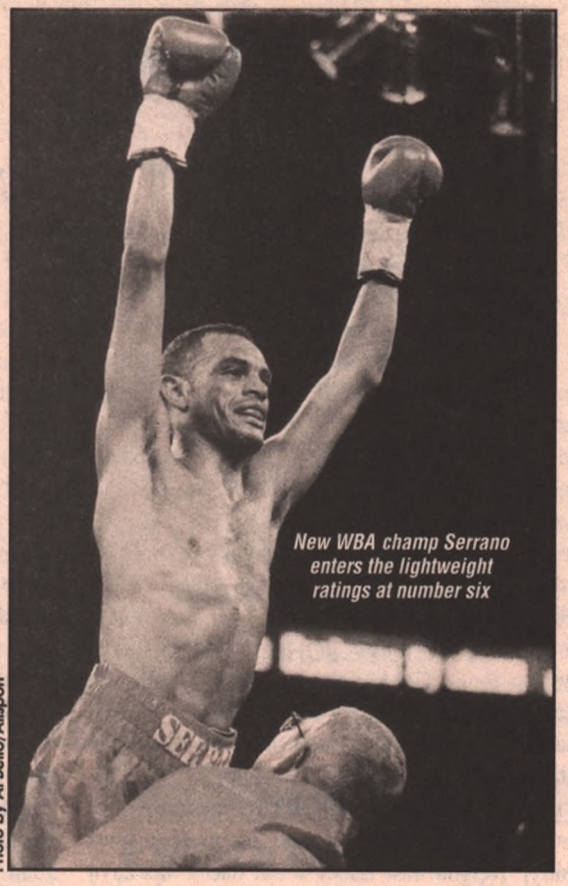
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

STRAWWEIGHTS: We're making up for an oversight by inserting Jose Garcia at number six. Garcia had defeated current WBA champ Noel Arambulet prior to Arambulet (number four) winning the vacant title. Andy Tabanas (ninth last issue) is gone following a loss to Gustavo Andrade at 108 pounds.

POUND-FOR-POUND: No changes.■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended November 30, 1999



New WBA champ Serrano enters the lightweight ratings at number six

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England 35-1-1 (WBA/WBC/IBF Champ)
2. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** — Fairburn, GA 36-4-1
3. **MICHAEL GRANT** — Norristown, PA 31-0
4. **IKE IBEABUCHI** — Dallas, TX 20-0
5. **DAVID TUA** — Totowa, NJ 35-1
6. **MIKE TYSON** — Catskill, NY 46-3
7. **VITALY KLITSCHKO** — Ukraine 26-0
8. **ANDREW GOLOTA** — Chicago, IL 34-4
9. **DERRICK JEFFERSON** — Detroit, MI 22-0-1
10. **OLEG MASKAEV** — Staten Island, NY 18-2

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **FERNANDO VARGAS** — Oxnard, CA 17-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **DAVID REID** — Philadelphia, PA 14-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI** — France 38-3-1
4. **FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO** — Spain 46-4 (WBC Champ)
5. **HARRY SIMON** — Namibia 18-0
6. **YORY BOY CAMPAS** — Mexico 74-3
7. **WINKY WRIGHT** — St. Petersburg, FL 39-2
8. **KEITH MULLINGS** — Brooklyn, NY 16-6-1
9. **BRONCO McKART** — Monroe, MI 38-2
10. **TONY MARSHALL** — Albany, NY 33-7-6

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED** — England 33-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **FRED NORWOOD** — St. Louis, MO 35-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **VUYANI BUNGU** — South Africa 37-2
4. **PAUL INGLE** — England 22-1 (IBF Champ)
5. **CESAR SOTO** — Mexico 53-8-2
6. **LUISITO ESPINOSA** — Philippines 44-8
7. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** — Mexico 30-2
8. **JULIO PABLO CHACON** — Argentina 34-0
9. **MANUEL MEDINA** — Mexico 56-11
10. **MBULELO BOTILE** — South Africa 26-1

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **ERIK MORALES** — Mexico 35-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** — Mexico 49-2
3. **NESTOR GARZA** — Mexico 37-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **LEHLO LEDWABA** — South Africa 29-1-1 (IBF Champ)
5. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH** — Las Vegas, NV 23-3
6. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ** — Mexico 25-1-1
7. **ANTONIO CERMENO** — Venezuela 34-3
8. **CARLOS NAVARRO** — Los Angeles, CA 19-0
9. **JUAN CARLOS RAMIREZ** — Mexico 17-2
10. **MICHAEL BRODIE** — England 27-0

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN** — Cincinnati, OH 19-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **PAULIE AYALA** — Ft. Worth, TX 29-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **JOHNNY TAPIA** — Albuquerque, NM 46-1-2
4. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM** — Thailand 23-1 (WBC Champ)
5. **NANA KONADU** — Ghana 40-4-1
6. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO** — Colombia 42-1
7. **JULIO GAMBOA** — Nicaragua 24-4
8. **ADAN VARGAS** — Mexico 32-1-1
9. **DANNY ROMERO** — Albuquerque, NM 35-3-1
10. **CUAUHTEMOC GOMEZ** — Mexico 45-7

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ**
   Germany 28-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
   France 41-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **VASSILIY JIROV**
   Kazakhstan 22-0 (IBF Champ)
4. **JOHNNY NELSON**
   England 36-12-1
5. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ**
   Argentina 28-3-1
6. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
   Pensacola, FL 32-5-1
7. **JAMES TONEY**
   Las Vegas, NV 58-4-2
8. **IMAMU MAYFIELD**
   New Brunswick, NJ 19-2
9. **SAUL MONTANA**
   Mexico 33-6
10. **CARL THOMPSON**
    England 24-5

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL 40-1 (WBC/WBA/IBF Champ)
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
   Germany 41-0
3. **LOU DEL VALLE**
   Bronx, NY 28-2
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX 39-6-1
5. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI**
   Germany 40-4-1
6. **MICHAEL NUNN**
   Davenport, IA 54-4
7. **ERIC HARDING**
   Philadephia, PA 17-0-1
8. **ANTONIO TARVER**
   Orlando, FL 14-0
9. **DAVID TELESCO**
   Port Chester, NY 23-2
10. **MONTELL GRIFFIN**
    Chicago, IL 38-3

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **SVEN OTTKE**
   Germany 17-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **JOE CALZAGHE**
   Wales 27-0
3. **BYRON MITCHELL**
   Ozark, AL 20-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **MARKUS BEYER**
   Germany 17-0 (WBC Champ)
5. **CHARLES BREWER**
   Philadelphia, PA 34-6
6. **THOMAS TATE**
   Houston, TX 36-6
7. **FRANKIE LILES**
   N. Hollywood, CA 32-3
8. **RICHIE WOODHALL**
   England 25-2
9. **ROBIN REID**
   England 26-2-1
10. **MADS LARSEN**
    Denmark 31-1

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA 35-2-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY**
   Washington, D.C. 28-1-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **KEITH HOLMES**
   Washington, D.C. 34-2 (WBC Champ)
4. **HASSINE CHERIFI**
   France 27-3-1
5. **ANTWUN ECHOLS**
   Davenport, IA 22-2-1
6. **OTIS GRANT**
   Canada 31-2-1
7. **ROBERT McCRACKEN**
   England 33-0
8. **ARMAND KRAJNC**
   Sweden 22-0
9. **DAVEY HILTON**
   Canada 37-1-3
10. **BERT SCHENK**
    Germany 23-0

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico 36-0 (IBF/WBC Champ)
2. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA 31-1
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana 34-1-1
4. **JAMES PAGE**
   Pittsburg, CA 25-3 (WBA Champ)
5. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA 41-3-1
6. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA 33-0
7. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA 30-0
8. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico 42-4-2
9. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI 48-3-1
10. **SHANNAN TAYLOR**
    Australia 25-0-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. 46-2 (WBA Champ)
2. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia 23-1-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **TERRONN MILLETT**
   St. Louis, MO 22-1-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY 21-0
5. **ANTONIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA 29-2
6. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV 39-4
7. **RANDALL BAILEY**
   Miami, FL 19-0
8. **MICKEY WARD**
   Lowell, MA 34-9
9. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ 30-4
10. **SHEA NEARY**
    England 22-0

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 29-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN 28-4-1
3. **PAUL SPADAFORA**
   Pittsburgh, PA 27-0 (IBF Champ)
4. **CESAR BAZAN**
   Mexico 35-3-1
5. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Philadelphia, PA 29-3
6. **GILBERT SERRANO**
   Venezuela 18-4-2 (WBA Champ)
7. **COLIN DUNNE**
   England 29-1
8. **ARTUR GRIGORIJAN**
   Uzbekistan 28-0
9. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
   Hartford, CT 31-3
10. **STEFANO ZOFF**
    Italy 28-7-2

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI 22-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **DIEGO CORRALES**
   Sacramento, CA 29-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **JONGKWON BAEK**
   South Korea 21-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **ROBERTO GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA 32-1
5. **LAKVA SIM**
   Mongolia 11-2-1
6. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea 25-3-1
7. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX 29-1
8. **ACELINO FREITAS**
   Brazil 22-0
9. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL 33-4
10. **GOYO VARGAS**
    Mexico 39-6-1

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. 38-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea 16-0 (WBC Champ)
3. **HIDEKI TODAKA**
   Japan 16-2-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **JESUS ROJAS**
   Venezuela 33-7-3
5. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines 40-2-2
6. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand 18-1-1
7. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia 31-0
8. **RATANACHAI VORAPIN**
   Thailand 35-4
9. **JOEL LUNA-ZARATE**
   Mexico 32-3-2
10. **ERIC MOREL**
    Madison, WI 22-0

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **SORNPICHAI KRATCHINGDAENG**
   Thailand 17-0 (WBA Champ)
2. **MEDGOEN 3K-BATTERY**
   Thailand 19-0 (WBC Champ)
3. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia 21-0
4. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand 34-2
5. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia 23-0 (IBF Champ)
6. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela 32-7-1
7. **HUGO SOTO**
   Argentina 50-6-2
8. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela 25-5
9. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand 33-1
10. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
    Mexico 40-3

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Mexico 48-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **YEOSAM CHOI**
   South Korea 21-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
   Nicaragua 25-1-1
4. **PICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 21-1 (WBA Champ)
5. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand 40-3-1
6. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa 50-10-2
7. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico 57-6-4
8. **WILL GRIGSBY**
   St. Paul, MN 14-2-1
9. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines 25-4-1
10. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
    Phoenix, AZ 49-4

STRAWWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

1. **ZOLANI PETELO**
   South Africa 14-2-2 (IBF Champ)
2. **WANDEE CHOR CHAREON**
   Thailand 23-3 (WBC Champ)
3. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 39-1
4. **NOEL ARAMBULET**
   Venezuela 11-1-1(WBA Champ)
5. **SONGKRAM PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 20-2-1
6. **JOSE GARCIA**
   Colombia 22-4-1
7. **ROCKY LIN**
   Philippines 26-2
8. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico 21-1-1
9. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Columbia 32-2
10. **OSWALDO GUERRERO**
    Mexico 26-5

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Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Carlos Monzon, Bob Foster, Charley Burley, Scypion-Fletcher, Mayweather-Serrano, Stanley Ketchel.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Paddy Flood, Bonecrusher Smith, Charlie Brown, Frazier-Broad, Chang-Zapata, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson, Tony Ayala, Jersey Joe Walcott.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One "Mas" Time. Plus: Larry Holmes, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle, Duran-Moore, Frazier-Bugner, Resto-Collins, Escalera-Hatcher.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Chavez, Tyson, Tubbs, Sullivan, great first rounds.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Rocky Graziano—Thanks For The Memories. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Junior Jones, Mike Tyson, Chris Eubank, Wolgast-Nelson, Hall of Fame.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness—Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech, overrated/underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Leonard-Hearns I, heavyweight computer tournament, Ali portrait (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough *Now?* Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez preview, Lennox Lewis, THE RING Poll, Freddie Pendleton.

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Oct. 1995: (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Dec. 1995: McNeeley Goes Too Soon—Mike Tyson: The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tommy Morrison, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

April 1996: Oscar De La Hoya—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Mike Tyson, Gabe Ruelas, 1995 in review, All-Time Top 10: Africa.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

June 1996 (92-Page Special): The Top 50 Fighters Of The Last 50 Years. Plus: Barrera-McKinney, Oscar De La Hoya, internet, Decade To Remember (1940s): Jimmy Bivins.

July 1996: Tyson! The Baddest ... But Is He The Best? Plus: De La Hoya-Chavez preview, Fabrice Tiozzo, Tommy Morrison & HIV, Malinga-Benn, closed-circuit, Chacon-Gomez.

Aug. 1996: A Closer Look At Tyson. Where He's At ... And Where He's Going. Plus: Joe Frazier, Roberto Duran, Buster Douglas, Arturo Gatti, women's boxing.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

March 1997 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson. Can He Reclaim His Greatness? Plus: 10 greatest controversies, Teddy Atlas & Michael Moorer, Kostya Tszyu, George Chuvalo.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING's 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Oct. 1997: Bang! Naseem Hamed Takes Aim At America. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Phillips-Tszyu, Saman Sorjaturong, Bobby Dykes.

Nov. 1997: Mike Tyson: Is He Finished? Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Ike Ibeabuchi, Hall of Fame weekend, mismatches.

Holiday 1997: Roy Jones: When He's Motivated, He's Unstoppable—Got That, Evander? Plus: Julio Cesar Green, Sugar Shane Mosley, boxers' day jobs, Tyson's mentor, Kid Lavigne.

Jan. 1998: Give This Man His Due! If You Can't Respect Oscar ... You Can't Respect Anyone! Plus: Sanchez-Mayweather, Morales-Zaragoza, Lucia Rijker, Marvin Johnson, characters.

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

March 1998 (92-Page Special): Into The Millennium With The Real Deal: THE RING'S Timeline For Evander Holyfield. Plus: Hernandez-Hernandez, Briggs-Foreman, 10 champs recall "The Day I Won The Title," Johnny Thompson.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: THE RING'S Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

May 1998: Wrestling With His Reinstatement: Is Tyson Biting The Hand That Feeds Him? Plus: Lewis-Briggs preview, Michael Grant, Manfredy-Gatti, Ski Goldstein, Dan Donnelly.

June 1998 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Tyson-King, David Reid, Bernard Hopkins, Ken Norton.

July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

Aug. 1998: Lennox Lewis: No Holyfield, No Glory. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Pat & Mike McMurtry, Chris Byrd, unbreakable records, contenders & pretenders.

Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights.*

Nov. 1998: Oscar De La Hoya vs. The All-Time Greats. Plus: David Reid, Fernando Vargas, Cory Spinks, LeRoy Neiman, Don King, Hall of Fame.

Holiday 1998 (92-Page Special): A War Worthy Of An Encore: Why Gatti & Robinson Have To Do It Again! Plus: Kostya Tszyu, Israel Cardona, Mills Lane, 50 greatest heavyweights.

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

April 1999 (92-Page Special): Fighter Of The Year: Floyd Mayweather Jr.: "He's So Good, It's Scary!" Plus: Fernando Vargas, James Page, Luisito Espinosa, Robinson-Gatti II, Archie Moore, Carlos Oritz, 1998 diary.

May 1999: Is It All Over For Tyson? Plus: Terry Norris, Vinny Pazienza, Jesus Pimental, stoppages, mandatories.

June 1999: The Fans Have Spoken: Results Of *The Ring* Readers' Poll. Plus: Michael Grant, De La Hoya-Quartey, Antwun Echols, Ted Lowry.

July 1999 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Holyfield-Lewis, Felix Trinidad, Stevie Johnston, Emile Griffith, Phil Zwick.

August 1999: Candidates For Greatness: Can Anyone Fill The Heavyweight Void? Plus: Tim Austin, Naseem Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Max Scmheling, Holyfield-Lewis.

September 1999: Taking Stock In The Fight Game: Who's Hot, Who's Not. Plus: Tony Ayala, Keith Holmes, Denny & Phil Moyer, scoring.

October 1999 (92-Page Special): Felix & Oscar Go To War! Who's Going To Prevail In The Welter Shootout? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Harry Simon, Omar Sheika, Al Andrews, 20 greatest fighters of 20th century.

November 1999: Three Belts Aren't Enough! What The Fans Demand Of Roy Jones! Plus: Davey Hilton, Maurice Harris, Byron Mitchell, Ayala-Tapia, '99 Hall of Fame.

December 1999: Insiders' Analysis: Can Roy Jones Chop Down The Best Heavyweights? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, David Reid, David Tua, Carmen Basilio, Johnny Summerlin.

Holiday 1999 (92-Page Special): Heavyweight Showdowns! Holyfield vs. Lewis II, Grant vs. Golota. Plus: Francois Botha, Arturo Gatti, Michael Carbajal, Rocky Marciano, Lou Filippo.

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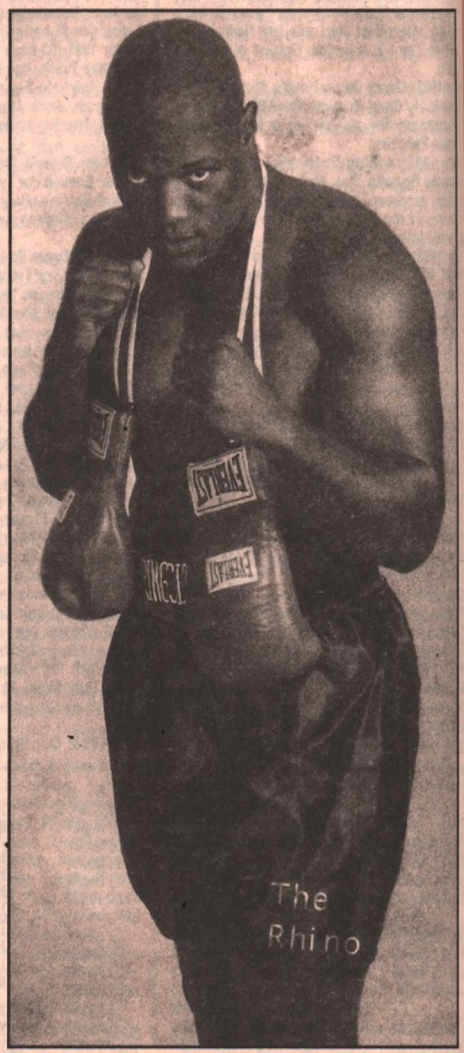
NEW FACES

CLIFF ETIENNE

Heavyweight

By Joe Santoliquito



His smile was infectious—and nothing short of a bazooka would knock it off. Engulfed by family members, Cliff Etienne took a second to reflect amid the celebration of his first-round knockout of Darrell Morgan on an ESPN2 *Friday Night Fights* show on September 17 in Las Vegas. Etienne wanted to absorb as much around him as possible, then stow the images away for safe keeping. If Etienne has a fear, it's that he'll miss something, simply because he realizes he's missed so much already.

Etienne winces at the memory of himself looking out from behind iron bars most of his adult life. After being incarcerated 10 years for armed robbery, Etienne, 29, is getting a new beginning in the ring, where "The Black Rhino" has forged an impressive 12-0 (9) mark.

While it's too early to tell for sure, the 6'2", 235-pound Etienne could be an emerging threat in the heavyweight class. He has a busy style, once throwing more than 800 punches in an eight-round fight, and he possesses an exceptional work ethic.

"Cliff's not afraid to try new things," said Don Turner, Etienne's trainer, who also works with former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield and contender Michael Grant. "Cliff does everything you ask of him. The best thing Cliff has is his work rate, and he does it without fear. He's just an incredible fighter at this stage and he's still learning.

"He reminds me of Joe Frazier, but he starts a little earlier than Joe. It took Joe a couple of rounds to get warmed up. I think Cliff should he ready to fight the big guys within the next year. With three or four more fights, he can fight the 'B' fighters of the heavyweight division. But people may not want to fight him, because he puts too much pressure on. Heavyweights don't like

(Continued on page 58)

PRO RECORD

1998		
Dec. 3	John Randall, Biloxi, MS	KO 1
Dec. 11	Jerry Villareal, Marksville, LA	KO 1
1999		
Jan. 19	Eddie Richardson, New Orleans, LA	W 6
Feb. 6	Willie Kyles, Biloxi	KO 1
Feb. 27	Wesley Martin, Baton Rouge, LA	KO 6
April 15	Larry Scott, Miami	W 6
April 30	Ron Smith, Marksville	KO 1
June 11	Eric Jackson, Biloxi	KO 1
Aug. 20	Abdul Muhaymin, Baton Rouge	W 8
Sept. 8	Clarence Goins, Kenner, LA	KO 1
Sept. 17	Darrell Morgan, Las Vegas	KO 1
Nov 26	Dan Conway, New Orleans	KO 1

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DRAW	KOs
12	12	0	0	9

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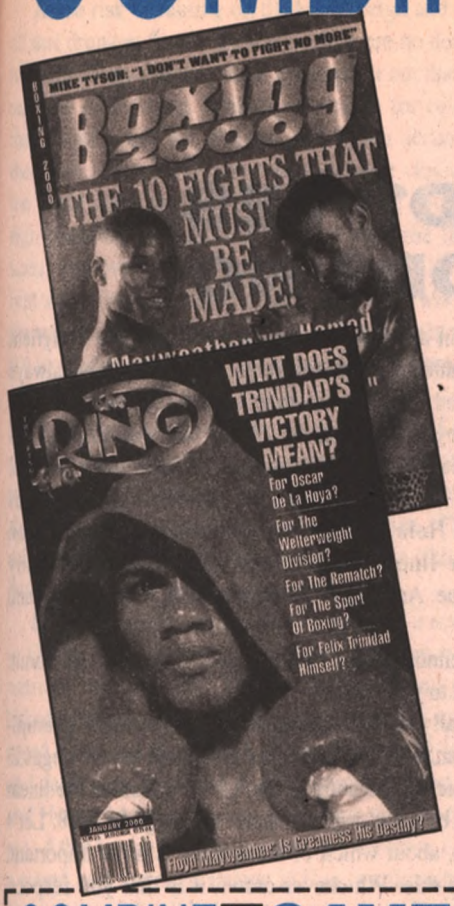

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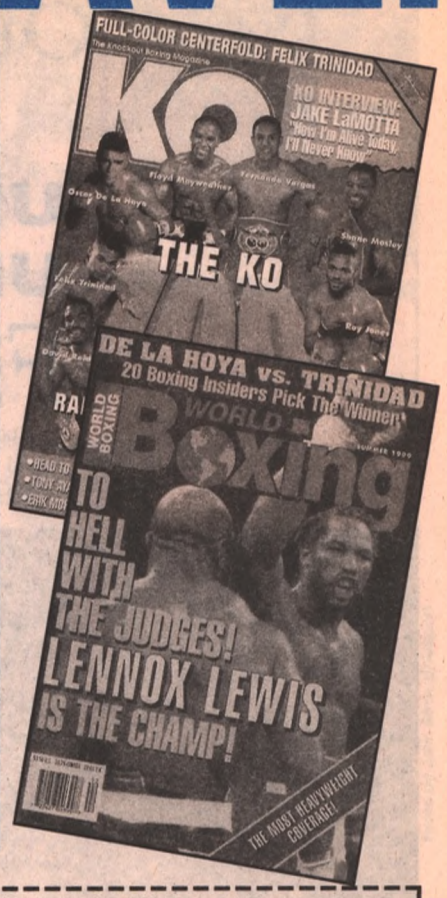

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RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

UNDISPUTED? YES. UNDERSTOOD? NO

From Sonny Liston embedding his footprint in the door of a police car to Evander Holyfield inscribing Bible verses on his title belt, our undisputed heavyweight champions have always been easily identifiable. For the most part, you could sum them up in just a few words.

Rocky Marciano was the undefeated guy. Floyd Patterson, the classy one. Joe Frazier was proud and tough. George Foreman I? Cold-hearted bully. Foreman II? Silly and lovable. Muhammad Ali epitomized '60s turbulence and '70s pop superstardom. Ingemar Johansson was the partier. Larry Holmes was bitter and unappreciated. Leon Spinks was a one-liner—in the record books and in Johnny Carson's monologue. And Mike Tyson was, well, Mike Tyson, and that says volumes.

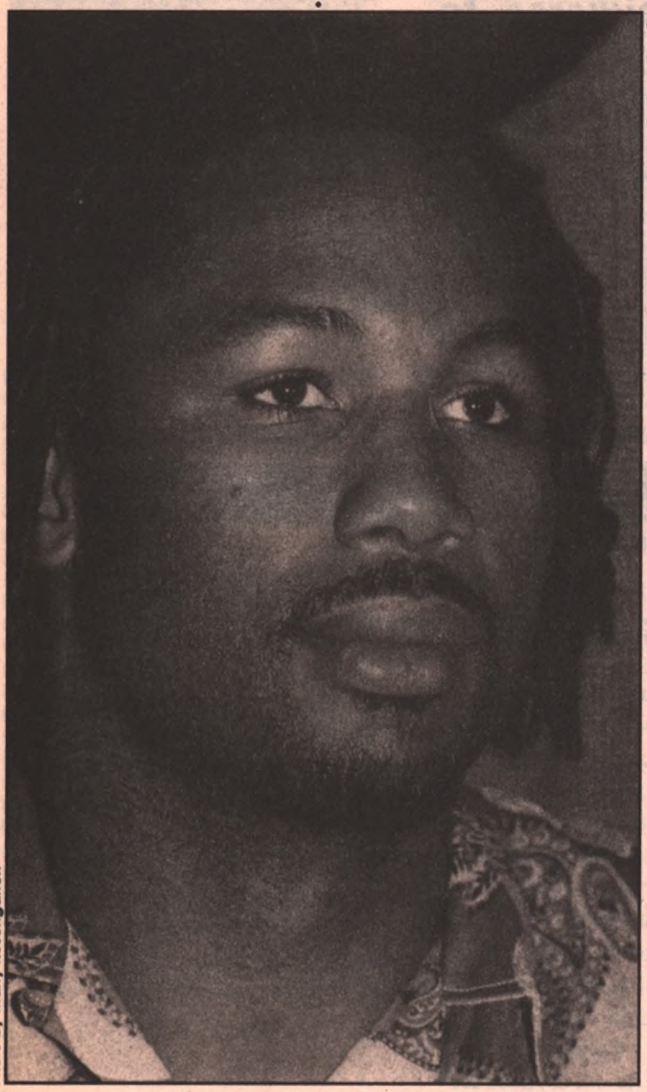

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Does anybody really know this guy?

Then there's Lennox Lewis. He's the, *uh ... um.* He's all about, *uh,* let me get back to you on that.

The Briton finally unified the alphabet heavyweight championship with his unanimous decision over Holyfield in Las Vegas in November, but more significantly to me, Lewis defended the linear crown he had won by knocking out Shannon Briggs in 1998. Let's not bicker, though, about which of these titles is most important. The bottom line is this: Whichever crown it is that you respect, Lewis now wears it.

If only everything else about the guy was as clear-cut. Lewis, we're finding out more and more, is a champion who can't be reduced to a single sentence. That's not because he's so complex, some rich tapestry of emotions and achievements. Rather, it's because, after a decade in the pro game and 37 fights, he still hasn't defined himself.

Who is Lennox Lewis?

Following the scoring controversy of March 13 in Madison Square Garden, and the widespread assumption that the 37-year-old war-torn Holyfield had nowhere to go but down, it was expected that the rematch would be Lewis' defining moment. But although the night ended with Lewis carting around more hardware than Bob Vila, quite a few pundits thought Holyfield actually deserved the victory. (My card gave Lewis a 115-113 edge.) Even Lewis' trainer, the ever-frank Emanuel Steward, labeled his man's performance subpar and disappointing.

If you look at how much more proving of himself Lewis has to do, and how much he needs to learn, you're inclined to think that he's still on the way up. How easy it is to forget that he's 34 years old. Remember when Ali was 32 and about to challenge Foreman? Back then, the scribes were calling The Greatest an "old man." Heck, in the days before Big George worked his geriatric miracle

and Holyfield was repeatedly rising from the dead, we spoke about 34-year-old fighters as though they needed canes and nursing home attendants to help them climb the ring steps. Though "34" isn't the scarlet letter it once was, and heavyweights *do* mature late, let's face it, 34 ain't young.

At the risk of raining on the king's reign and spoiling all that drunken fun the Lewis loyalists are no doubt having at this very minute, allow me to point out that Lewis' unifying of the titles is hardly the cause for celebration that it was when Ali, Frazier, and Tyson accomplished the same. Sure, having one heavyweight champeen of the world will always be better than having two or three. But when the aforementioned trio healed the title fractures, they were young and hungry and you knew their best work was still ahead of them. When Lewis reached the summit, on the other hand, my first thought was that it's too bad he wasted so much time getting there.

Anyone with Lewis' height, reach, jab, and right-hand power should have been so much better. Too many months of what we now realize was his prime was spent trying to secure matches with Riddick Bowe and Tyson, showdowns that would never materialize. The step-aside money may have helped make Lewis rich, but his development was all the poorer for it.

In '94, he didn't train hard and suffered a stupid loss to Oliver McCall that set him back for over a year, or until he whacked out Tommy Morrison and reestablished himself among the heavyweight elite. Lewis stagnated again in '96 and '97, struggling with Ray Mercer and failing to display a killer instinct against McCall and Henry Akinwande, two opponents who stopped trying. After Lewis dismantled bad boy Andrew Golota in a round and flattened Briggs in five, we thought all that potential was finally about to be reached. But then Lewis turned on the autopilot against Zeljko Mavrovic and, on that night in March when Holyfield might have been stopped if Lewis had only sucked it up like a true great and gone for the fantastic finish, the Englishman took the safe course of action.

The rematch was Lewis' chance to erase all that ambiguity, and he muffed it. As a result, questions remain about his killer instinct and hunger. Some observers thought he at least put doubts about his heart to rest when he survived being wobbled in the seventh round. Don't count me among them. Lewis was stunned, but he didn't have to pull himself off the deck, overcome a stoppage-threatening gash, or gut it out with a broken jaw. In my mind, how well he deals with true adversity has yet to be determined.

The most damning indictment of Lewis is that we've now seen him in 24 rounds against Holyfield. With his zest for combat and never-say-die mindset, Holyfield, especially the version who showed up at the Thomas & Mack Center 12 days before Thanksgiving, is a walking barometer of his opponents' character. He brought out either the best or worst (and, in some case, both) of Tyson, Bowe, Michael Moorer, Michael Dokes, and Dwight Muhammad Qawi. So there's a good chance that the Lewis we saw in the Holyfield fights is the true Lewis. Perish the thought.

Perhaps the best of Lewis is *still* to come. Maybe he's the latest of late bloomers and, in his case, you *can* teach an old dog new punching combinations. We'll see. No heavyweight champion can define himself without a little help from his enemies, and Lewis has a few good ones from which to choose: David Tua, Michael Grant, and, if he can ever get out of handcuffs and into handwraps, Ike Ibeabuchi. Call Lewis-Tyson a mismatch if you'd like. For me, it offers plenty of intrigue. How will Lewis react to Tyson's left hook to the jaw or "Leg-Iron" Mike's attempts to wrench the Briton's arm, hit him after the bell, or subject him to some previously unrevealed dirty tactic?

Talk about enigmas. Lewis is the powerhitter who's reluctant to hunt down weakened prey and the buttoned-down gentleman brash enough to call a Bible-thumper a hypocrite. He's a fighter who can turn tough guy Golota to jelly, yet make the ordinary Mavrovic appear world class.

This career of Lewis' hasn't exactly been a one-man British Invasion, has it? Nobody screams hysterically for him or memorizes details of his life. He doesn't inflame passions or make you rush out to buy his souvenirs. If Lewis was a rock band, he wouldn't be The Beatles or The Rolling Stones. He's much more mysterious and aloof. He's more like The Who.

And the next time we think we've figured him out, it's a good bet we *will* get fooled again. ■

Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

Ryan questions Lewis' zeal for combat

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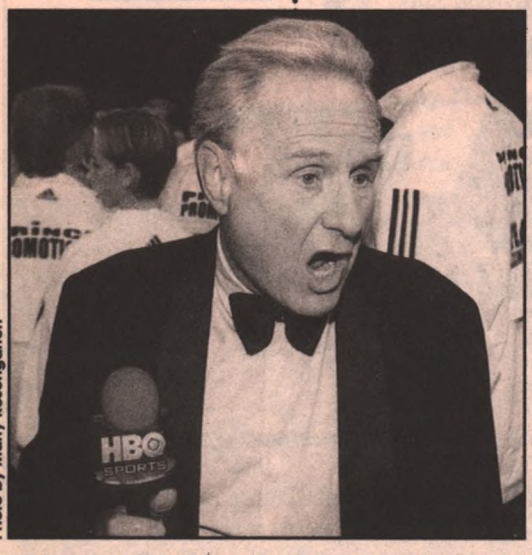


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

"This Naseem Hamed-Cesar Soto fight was so bad, I'd rather listen to Mariachi music for an hour!"

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Fifty is not a death sentence: Undisputed heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis has made it clear he wants to fight all the superstar heavyweights from his era, and since George Foreman's career spanned just about every era imaginable, he has to qualify. Sorry, George, but at this point, you'd probably need to be brandishing a Meineke muffler to beat Lewis.

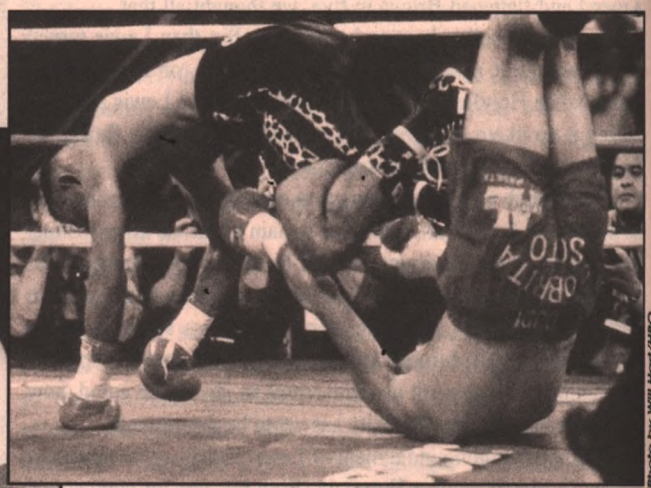


Photo by Will Hart/HBO

Soto's shoulders are down, and Hamed gets the three-count! The referee would have been doing us all a favor if he'd just slapped the mat three times and ended this disaster right then and there.

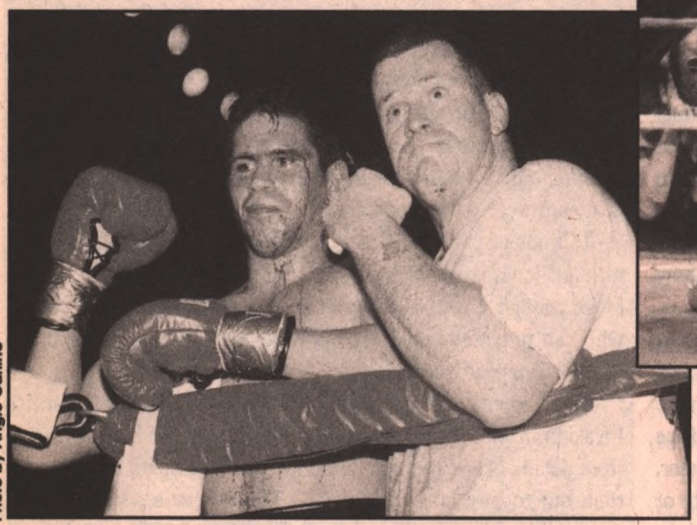


Photo by Angie Carlino

The spirit of Vinny Pazienza appears to have overtaken the body of trainer Joe Lake, who looks ready to widen Dana Rosenblatt's gash with a big left hand. Paz may not have gotten the victory he'd hoped for, but he must have at least been happy he left hated rival Rosenblatt's face looking like this.

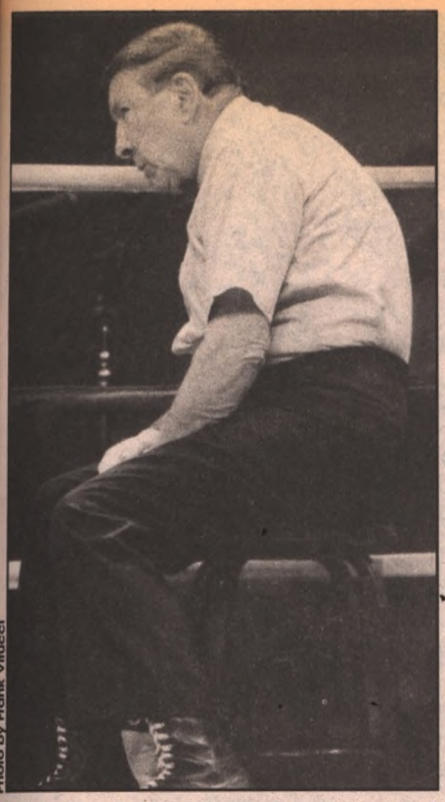


Photo by Frank Vitucci

A Frank on his buns: Eccentric veteran official Frank Cappuccino likes a stool of his own to sit on during the break between rounds. Gotta work on that posture, though, Frank!

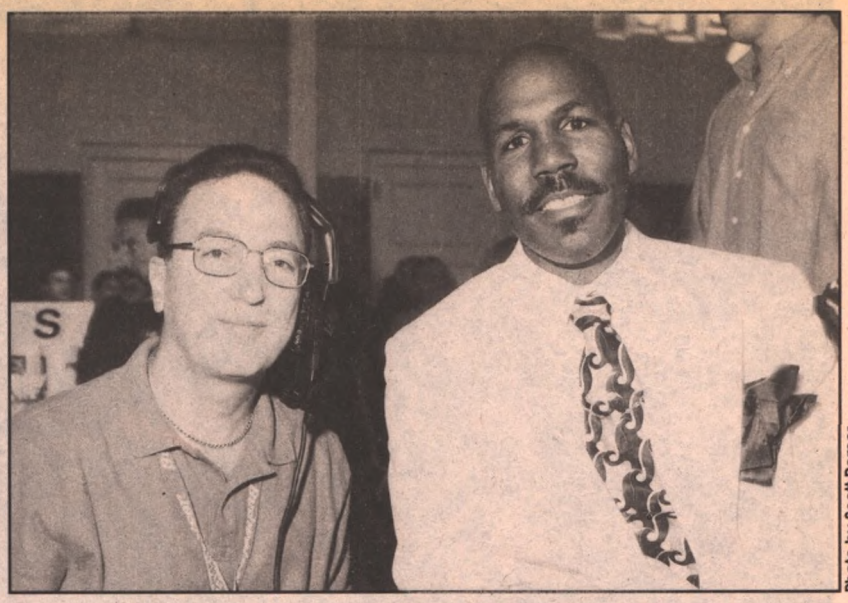


Photo by Scott Romer

Three-time light heavyweight champion Marvin Johnson poses with his former promoter, Russell Peltz, at a recent Friday Night Fights *show in Indianapolis. No truth to the rumor that Johnson asked Peltz to get him one last shot at Matthew Saad Muhammad on an upcoming* FNF *broadcast. (It probably wouldn't be bad for the ratings, though.)*

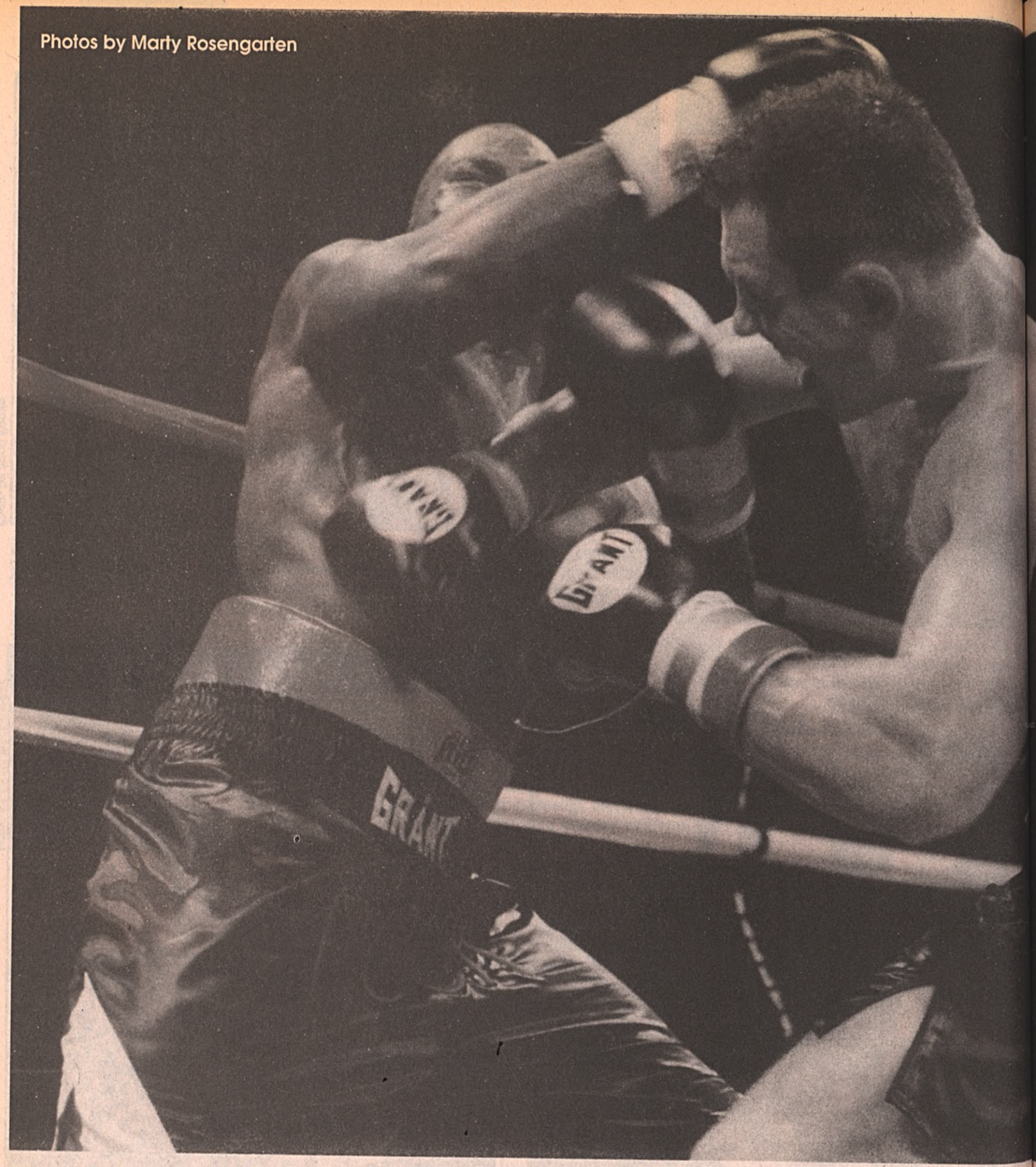
Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Referee Steve Smoger was a little bit loopy after getting konked in the head with a chair during the Oleg Maskaev-Hasim Rahman postmatch melee, and tried to issue bench warrants to everyone in attendance at the Atlantic City Convention Center. (See "Outside The Ropes" on page 12 if you're trying to figure out what that joke means.)

NOSTALGIA CORNER

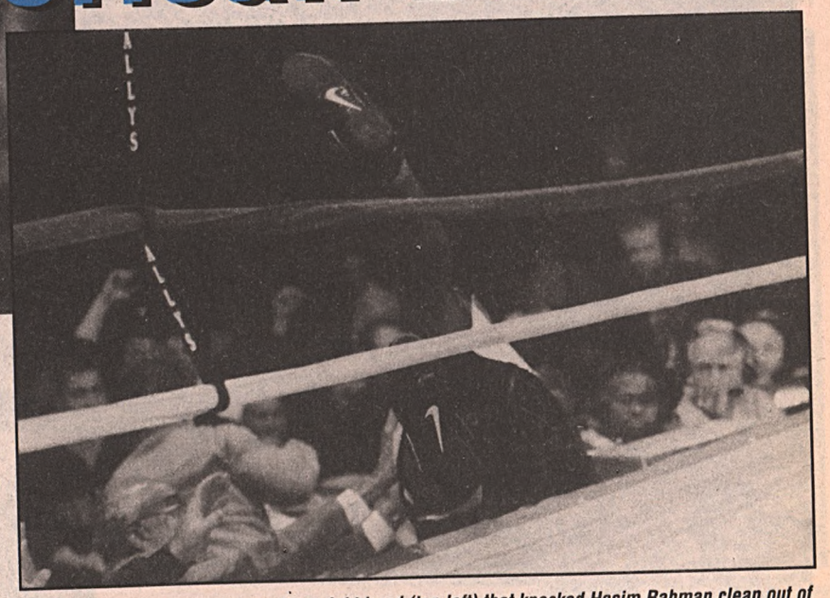
In this photo from June of 1923, heavyweight contender Luis Firpo demonstrates the direction his career would take after his defeat at the hands of Jack Dempsey three months later. Firpo knocked Dempsey down twice in the classic bout—sending him through the ropes the second time—but Firpo was floored 10 times himself, and was finally stopped in round two.

Photos by Marty Rosengarten



RUSSIAN HEAVYWEIGHT OLEG MASKAEV

He Won't Abandon His American Dream



Maskaev connects with the crushing right hand (top left) that knocked Hasim Rahman clean out of the ring (above) in the eighth round. The spectacular knockout, which led to a melee in the crowd, suddenly made Maskaev a new force in the heavyweight division.

By Ted Bodenrader

Ka-pow!

The shot echoed through the rafters of the Atlantic City Boardwalk Convention Center like a cannon, jarring the 2,000 live observers to an instant, wide-eyed standstill. The spectacle was shocking indeed, as 234 pounds of heavyweight beefcake crashed through the ropes, taking out everything that separated him from the arena floor, including a broadcast table, a few folding chairs, and a variety of computer equipment. His nickname, "The Rock," was very fitting at that moment because Hasim Rahman sure was sleeping like one. But while ringside doctors frantically tried to revive Rahman back to coherency, it was clear that Oleg Maskaev was the one living a dream.

Maskaev had just turned the lights out on Rahman's heavyweight hopes—while illuminating his own—with one right hand to remember in round number eight, and now, the burly Ruskie had a bird's-eye view of the stunning aftermath. He was not concerned about the biting pain in his right thumb, which he had fractured just 15 minutes earlier, nor the puffy swelling around both eyes. Instead, Maskaev peered down over the top rope and tried to take in the mini-riot that erupted after he sent his foe through the ropes: the flying bodies, the ricocheting chairs, the scrambling police officers, the non-stop chaos, the uncontrollable melee. There was no mistaking that this was a boxing event, all right.

Apart from it all, the smiling Maskaev inhaled the magical moment and exhaled a sigh of relief, just as the black glove was removed from the very knuckles that had triggered such a scene. Yes, this was his dream. The American Dream. It was the image Maskaev had been envisioning

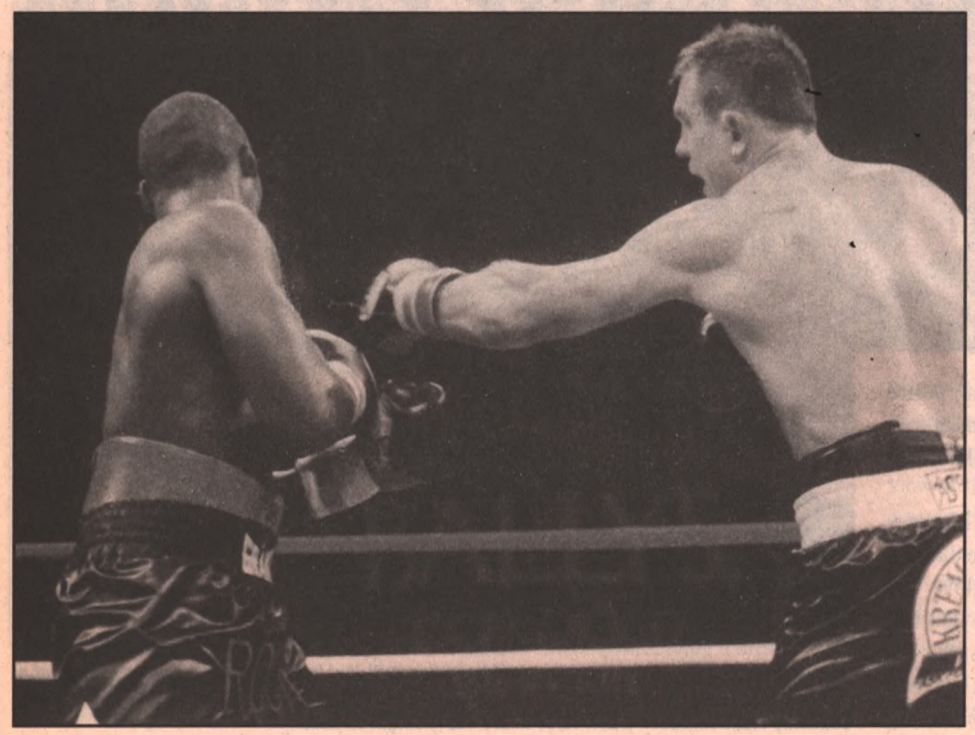
since the early years of the decade, when the Russian Lieutenant flourished as a two-time national amateur heavyweight king. It was then that Maskaev had tasted virtually every luxury that his country would allow for a guy whose sole function was to throw punches for a living.

So in 1994, when Maskaev hopped a plane with his wife and three children, and winged it over to the Land of the Free, he wasn't exactly the opportunistic abandoner that the media has portrayed him as when he left the land of his birth. He was simply an ambitious kid with a big punch and a big heart, a young man seeking a lifelong opportunity.

So now, some five years, 18 victories, and a number-four WBA ranking later, the soft-spoken, 30-year-old Maskaev is settled into a cozy Staten Island home with his wife of 12 years, his children, his dog, his cat, and his flower garden. He does not like pizza or hamburgers or hot dogs. He does not watch MTV or Spielberg movies and he does not listen to Ice Cube or Ice-T or TLC. But before you go calling this guy Ivan Drago, take a closer look. You'll find a lot of stars and stripes on his 6'3", 235-pound frame before you come up with any kind of hammer and sickle.

"Yes, the people in Russia, they want me back," said Maskaev with a language-tangled tongue. "They never want me to leave there back then, but I don't think they look at me as abandoning them, either. I came here because I wanted to be pro boxer, and pro boxing is only good in America. Most people in Russia understand that."

Trading hooks: The shot that pitched Rahman out of the ring was far from the only big punch of the fight. Both men connected with solid blows in one of the better heavyweight clashes of 1999.

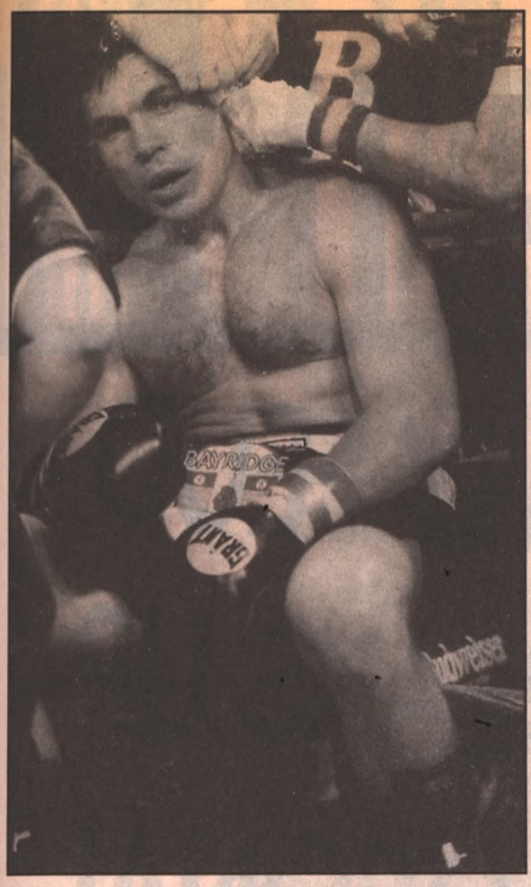


When veteran trainer Bobby Jackson ventured into what he presumed would be hostile territory with his newest commodity, he was delighted by the glowing reception that welcomed Maskaev back into Moscow for a pair of return visits. When Maskaev whacked out Alex Stewart in September '97, and then Courage Tshabalala last year, Jackson was amazed that he and his fighter were showered with support—and not trash.

"They love him over there," said Jackson. "I don't know where they all get this crap from, about him being an abandoner over there, about him being this awful bad guy. I used to get really ticked off about that."

So Jackson, after engaging in endless discussions about the topic in every boxing gym, restaurant, and social gathering he'd walk into, finally stopped, and listened to what others were telling him in return. Jackson knew his guy could move and groove. He knew his guy could pack a good smack. What he didn't know, with this Russian cloud hovering above, was if his foreign ticket could sell.

"I used to get really upset about it," admitted Jackson. "And then everybody was telling me that people will pay twice as much to watch somebody they don't like than somebody they do like. Then I realized that we could use all this to our advantage."



Besides an injured thumb, Maskaev also suffered a cut inside his left ear, but nothing deterred him from taking advantage of his opportunity to prove that he belonged among the top heavyweight contenders.

Maskaev is not exactly Mike Tyson or Prince Naseem Hamed or Andrew Golota. People are not lining up to watch him get tattooed or to see him swallow his own teeth. But Maskaev recently proved he's willing to do something neither Tyson nor The Prince have shown the fortitude to attempt of late—gamble when it comes time to pick opponents.

It all began one autumn afternoon when Maskaev's manager, Steve Trunov, was contacted by the powers-that-be at HBO Sports. It appeared that Rahman's proposed November 6 date with Zeljko Mavrovic had fallen through when the Croatian heavyweight blew out a knee during training. When the folks at HBO contacted Trunov and Jackson about a fight with Rahman, all four of the tandem's eyes lit up, not with dollar signs, but with opportunity. Not that the $150,000 price tag dangling from Rahman's trunks wasn't intriguing enough for Team Maskaev. But Jackson saw it as something even greater, even more rewarding, than the cash. It was a chance to prove that his man was for real against a high-profile fighter, and a chance to launch his guy's stock into orbit.

That was the deciding factor when Trunov called Jackson a few days later with some bad news. Trunov had just gotten off the phone with HBO. Rahman's people did not want the fight against the obscure, yet dangerous Maskaev, and in order to get the fight, Maskaev would have to settle for $100,000.

"Take it," ordered Jackson without skipping a beat. "To prove that our guy was better, the pay cut was worth it. That's what you call confidence, and you never see that anymore in this sport. We were risking a number-four ranking against this guy and taking a huge pay cut at the same time, but we knew we were going to win."

Jackson was so sure of his fighter's chances against Rahman, he guaranteed Maskaev would chop down the favored Rahman in the eighth round.

"I knew it," Jackson said. "I even told [HBO analyst] Larry Merchant, the day before the fight, that it would happen. I told him, 'You guys may all be talking about Rahman today, but you'll all be talking about Maskaev come tomorrow."

You couldn't really blame outsiders for questioning Maskaev's ability. After all, in his two most significant fights before climbing into the ring with Rahman, he'd been blown out in one round by Oliver McCall in February '96, and stopped in the 11th round by David Tua in April '97. But Maskaev had improved considerably since then, and Jackson was positive that the work of conditioning coach Scooter Honig would surely pay off in the later rounds, when Maskaev's keep-coming approach would eventually wear down Rahman.

Yet, for Maskaev, it was all about respect. Maskaev caught wind of a conversation that allegedly took place when a boxing insider asked Rahman about Maskaev's boxing style.

"He has a horizontal style," cracked The Rock, a barb that apparently sent Maskaev into a tizzy.

Maskaev, however, would have a punch line of his own—one that wasn't quite so funny—one that started at his shoulder and shot straight through Rahman's chin. But it would take 23 minutes of bobbing, weaving, jabbing, and feinting before he finally drove it home.

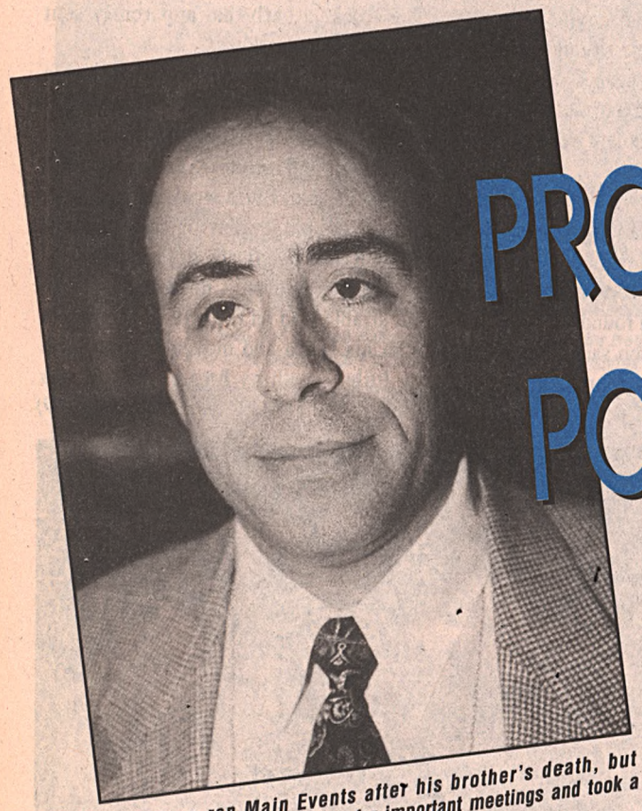
Rahman had built up a questionable but sizable lead on the official scorecards with his speed and movement, but little by little, breath by breath, the life was

(Continued on page 59)

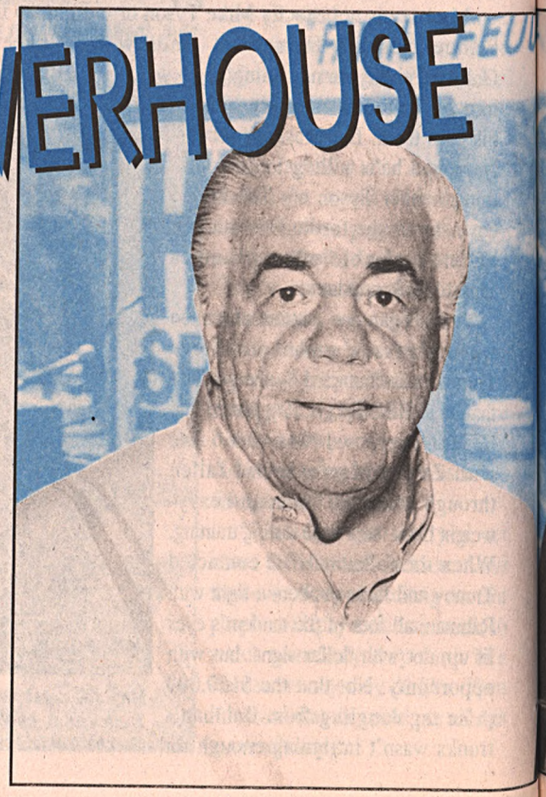
Maskaev celebrates the upset win over Rahman with (from left) trainer Bobby Jackson, manager Steve Trunov, and conditioning coach Scooter Honig. Jackson actually told HBO color commentator Larry Merchant before the bout that his man would score an eighth-round knockout.

MAIN EVENTS IN THE MAIN EVENT

DUVA FAMILY FEUD BREAKS UP PROMOTIONAL POWERHOUSE



Dino Duva ran Main Events after his brother's death, but sometimes failed to show up for important meetings and took a mysterious leave of absence in 1999.



Lou and Dan Duva in 1990. When Dan, the head of Main Events, died in 1996, it led to a family feud that resulted in the recent break-up of one of the most powerful promotional entities in boxing.

The new Main Events team is comprised of former New Jersey boxing commission member Gary Shaw, who will run the day-to-day operations, and Dan Duva's widow, Kathy, who is the CEO.

By Ron Borges

After a long fight, Main Events is entering a new round.

The promotional company founded by Dan Duva and so often identified with his father, Hall of Fame trainer-manager Lou Duva, fell apart this fall as a family business, nearly five years after the passing of the man who created it. The collapse, sadly, came as a result of the kind of infighting that's better left in the ring.

The full impact of the changes on the Duva family and on the sport of boxing that has so long been a part of their life has yet to be felt, but one thing is clear: Nothing has changed for the feisty family's head except the address of his office.

"I wish them luck, but remember one thing," Lou Duva said of the new Main Events headed by his daughter-in-law, Kathy, and run day-to-day by former New Jersey boxing official Gary Shaw. "In the past, if I had a fighter and [an offer] was close, we'd bend for Main Events. Now we're going to go off on our own, and I feel bad about that, but it's business. I feel bad a family affair ended up like this, but I'm in a different position now."

In a sad ending to what had been a boxing success story for nearly 20 years, the patriarch of the Duva clan walked out of the offices of Main Events

(Continued on page 60)

BOXING ROCKED BY FEDERAL INDICTMENTS

By Tim Graham

An In-Depth Look At The IBF Scandal

Fame has a price, and payment can be made in many ways. Hard work and sacrifice are legitimate means. For some people, however, those are not options. Either they are too lazy, too impatient, or too poor at their profession to pay the price admirably.

Why waste time and effort doing it the hard way when a simpler method obtains the same result? A person always can sit around and passively expect a big break, but the odds of getting that break are astronomical. The percentages might increase slightly with a kiss on the right cheeks, so to speak.

But the best shot to hit it big, for those not willing to do it respectably, is by paying the price—literally. All they need to do is find out what fame is worth to them and to the person who controls it, and it then can be obtained with a financial compromise.

Bribery and extortion: They have been around since humans first walked the earth, and no amount of moral codes, legislation, or media scrutiny can stop it from happening. Some even say it makes the world go 'round.

Revelations by federal prosecutors of widespread abuses certainly made the boxing world spin off its axis on November 3, 1999. IBF President Robert W. Lee and three of his underlings were indicted on charges of taking at least $338,000 in bribes from promoters and managers to rig rankings in 10 of their 17 weight classes. The accusations—rooted in conspiracy, racketeering, and money laundering—date back to 1985.

"I bribed all of them," one of the government's star witnesses told THE RING on the condition of anonymity. "I testified in front of a grand jury. And it's not just Bob Lee; it's all of them. We've all been fools for letting it happen."

Twenty-three fighters, seven promoters, and seven managers are involved in the 32-count IBF indictment, but their names weren't submitted for the record. Those included in the document are merely called, for example, Boxer Number Three or Promoter Number Six or Manager Number Five.

Lee steadfastly denied the indictment's allegations, and on November 15 pleaded innocent before U.S. District Judge John Bissell in Newark, New Jersey. Government prosecutors then attempted to freeze the IBF's assets, but Bissell delayed a decision until a November 29 hearing. The tentative trial date was set for January 11.

Also indicted were IBF presidential liaison Robert W. Lee Jr., former Virginia boxing commissioner and past USBA President Donald Brennan, and Francisco Fernandez, an international IBF commissioner based in Colombia. Because of their ages, the elder Lee, 65, and Brennan, 86, were allowed to surrender for their court appearances. The younger Lee was arrested at his home, while Fernandez remains a fugitive. Fernandez' charges are not extraditable.

"It's going to make us stronger because I'm not a quitter," Lee said. "We didn't get this far by quitting. We got this far by providing opportunities for 400 champions."

That is not in dispute. What is, though, is how those fighters—and several others—might have received those opportunities. In trying to find an answer, the grand jury subpoenaed all IBF records since 1982, including rankings, fight contracts, checks, invoices, expense forms, and telephone records.

"In the IBF, rankings were bought, not earned," said Robert F. Cleary, first assistant United States attorney for New Jersey. "The defendants completely corrupted the IBF ranking system. Professional boxing is built on the ranking system. Favorable rankings can mean the difference between obscurity for a boxer and a shot at a title bout and a potentially big payday. Selling the ratings system to the highest bidders erodes the image of boxing and deceives the public."

Lee is no stranger to scandal. He was

Photo by Chris Farina

The 1995 heavyweight title fight between George Foreman and Axel Schulz has been one of the main focal points of the government's investigation of the IBF. According to the federal indictment, a $100,000 payoff was made in order to make Schulz eligible to fight for the IBF title.

the president of the USBA and started developing an affiliated group known as the IBF while serving on the New Jersey State Athletic Commission. He was appointed the state's acting athletic commissioner in '83. He was nominated for the permanent post, but that was withdrawn after a state ethics panel accused Lee of conflicts of interest for soliciting money from casinos and promoters. The New Jersey State Commission of Investigation also probed him for the commission's lackluster performance under his watch. *The Bergen* (New Jersey) *Record* reported an undercover FBI agent made an audiotape of Lee allegedly accepting a bribe in return for incorrectly granting a promoter's license in '82.

Even prior to the November indictment, it was a lousy year for Lee on both personal and professional levels. As he continued to watch his son, Robert Jr., struggle with an admitted cocaine addiction, his boxing empire crumbled.

The IBF's 1999 troubles began in March after the controversial draw between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis at Madison Square Garden. The decision, anchored by a deplorable scoring job by IBF-appointed judge Eugenia Williams, prompted New York law enforcement agencies to launch inquiries.

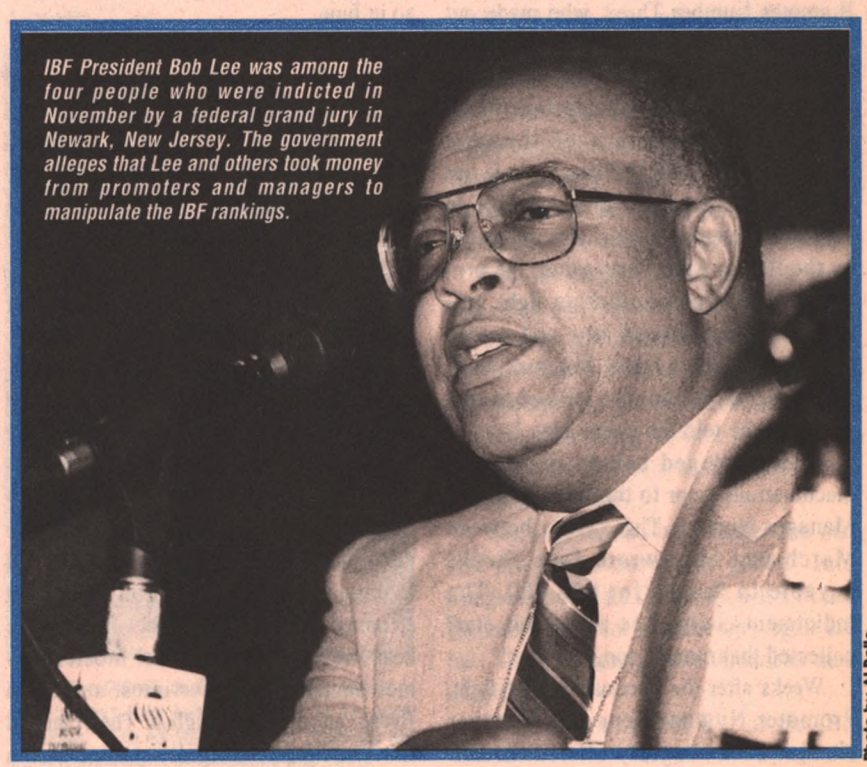
The Nevada State Athletic Commission also started an inquiry when it discovered that, when Lee morphed the USBA into the IBF, he incorporated it as a non-profit organization in Rhode Island and a for-profit organization in Oregon.

But the November indictment was 1999's exclamation point, one that could precede several jail sentences in 2000. As has been widely reported by the boxing media, the chief target is probably Don King, whose Florida offices were raided by government agents in June '99. And to reach the infamous promoter, the government might just have to steamroll a few others. The IBF is in its path.

A significant portion of the IBF indictment involves its 1995 heavyweight championship fight. There was only one IBF heavyweight title fight that year, George Foreman's 12-round decision over Axel Schulz on April 22 in Las Vegas, and, according to the indictment, it was dishonestly arranged.

The indictment alleges that in December '94, Lee and the fight's promoters already had been working surreptitiously to put the Foreman-Schulz bout together. It seems Team Foreman wanted an easy opponent, and went out of its way to locate a particular unranked fighter. The indictment claims that Lee "agreed to accept money from Promoter Number Three in order for the IBF to approve heavyweight champion Boxer Number Five's application to fight unrated Boxer Number Six."

In January '95, the indictment states,



IBF President Bob Lee was among the four people who were indicted in November by a federal grand jury in Newark, New Jersey. The government alleges that Lee and others took money from promoters and managers to manipulate the IBF rankings.

Photo by Al Bello

Photo by Frank Vitucci

According to the feds, despite his unbeaten record, Fernando Vargas' promoters were forced to pay a bribe in order to obtain the number-one rating that would ensure him a title shot.

Lee accepted an offer of $50,000 from Promoter Number Three, who made out a check for that amount, payable to Promoter Number Seven, for the IBF to approve the special exemption. Foreman-Schulz was approved the next month. Another $50,000 check made out by Promoter Number Three, payable to Promoter Number Seven, was deposited by the IBF in April. Bob Arum, the promoter of the Foreman-Schulz fight, testified before the grand jury, and denied ever paying Lee a bribe. Foreman testified in April '99, but has refused to discuss what he told the grand jury.

Other alleged behind-the-scenes machinations prior to this fight involved Manager Number Three, who between March and May wrote four checks payable to "cash" for $36,000. The indictment claims Lee and/or his staff collected that money, too.

Weeks after the Foreman-Schulz fight, Promoter Number Four and Manager Number Four allegedly offered the IBF $100,000 to order a rematch. The IBF did so in June.

"We had threatened the IBF with a lawsuit should we not get a return match," said Schulz' manager, Wilfried Sauerland, in an interview with DFS Sports World, a German Web site. "Afterwards, the IBF came to us and said, 'You can have the fight for $100,000, then you don't need to go to court.' We paid."

The rematch never happened. Rather than fight the rematch against the tougher-than-expected Schulz, Foreman relinquished the title. Frans Botha was awarded the opportunity to fight Schulz for the vacant title, and won a unanimous decision. That fight is shrouded in IBF suspicions as well. Those suspicions, in fact, are the original reasons the government started looking into the IBF. The investigation stemmed from a 1996 lawsuit filed by ex-heavyweight champ Michael Moorer, former manager John Davimos, and Main Events attorney Pat English. They claimed that in '95 Lee illegally moved Botha ahead of Moorer into the number-one ranking without consulting the IBF ratings committee. At the time he leapfrogged the likes of Riddick Bowe, Lennox Lewis, Holyfield, and Ray Mercer into the number-one slot, Botha hadn't yet fought a ranked opponent. No bribes, however, are alleged by the indictment in regard to that maneuver.

The indictment claims the IBF agreed back in October '92 to accept $10,000 from Promoter Number Two and Manager Number One to place Boxer Number Three in the heavyweight top 10. Boxer Number Three debuted at ninth in November. The payment allegedly was made later that month.

The indictment claims Promoter Number Two also helped Boxer Number Four get into the rankings. In June '94, the indictment claims, Promoter Number Two and Manager Number Three made arrangements to pay the IBF $20,000 to get Boxer Number Four in the top five. On June 3, Manager Number Two allegedly wrote a check to the El Dorado Hotel in Reno, Nevada, where the IBF annual convention took place from May 31-June 4, and the money was funneled to the IBF. The IBF ranked Boxer Number Four fifth at heavyweight in June.

The heavyweight division certainly wasn't the only weight class where the federal prosecutor alleges that payoffs for rankings occurred. The indictment states

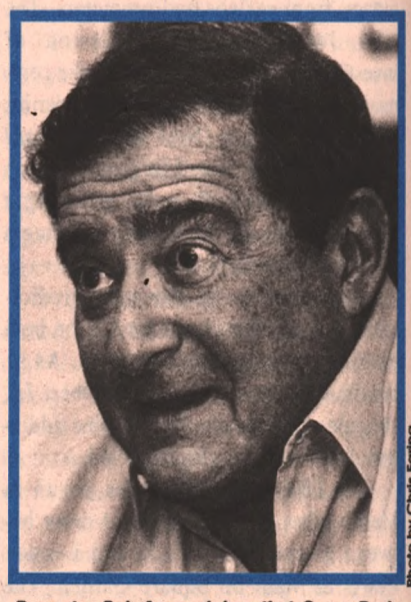


Photo by Chris Farina

Promoter Bob Arum claims that Oscar De La Hoya relinquished the IBF lightweight belt rather than pay the organizations number-one contender step-aside money.

Photo by Joy Lash

It has been widely speculated that the government's real target in its ongoing investigation into professional boxing is Don King. King, pictured with IBF boss Lee in 1995, has previously beaten the rap in income tax evasion and insurance fraud cases the government brought against him.

that in May '98 the IBF solicited $25,000 from Promoter Number Six to rank Boxer Number 21 first in the junior middleweight division. This concurs with the claim made by Main Events CEO Kathy Duva, who said that she paid $25,000 to ensure that Fernando Vargas became the IBF's number-one junior middleweight contender, even though Vargas had earned the ranking in the ring.

"There's a difference between bribery and extortion," Duva told the Associated Press.

Certain individuals appear numerous times in the indictment. Manager Number Five is linked to 10 of the 23 boxers mentioned in the indictment. Manager Number Five supposedly made 23 transactions with the IBF totaling at least $60,000, including payment for nine different number-one rankings for various fighters. The indictment claims that "in or about May 1995, defendants Lee Sr., Brennan, and others accepted $5,000 from Manager Number Five, in order for the IBF to order a championship match between Boxer Number 10 and lightweight champion Boxer Number 16." The indictment goes on to state that "in or about June 1995, defendants Lee Sr., Brennan, and others ordered a championship match between Boxer Number 10 and lightweight champion Boxer Number 16." In June '95, the IBF lightweight champion was Oscar De La Hoya.

"They wanted Oscar to pay step-aside money to avoid [Miguel] Julio, but Oscar refused and gave up the belt," Arum said during a conference call with boxing reporters.

The IBF's allegations also reached Australia.

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

HBO's Lou DiBella says that all of the alphabet organizations have been a "cancer on the sport of boxing." The network no longer mentions the organizations when broadcasting title fights.

The oldest charge in the indictment is from 1985, when the IBF allegedly accepted approximately $2,000 from Promoter Number One to order a rematch between Boxer Number One and the IBF bantamweight champ, Boxer Number Two. The IBF bantamweight champ at the time was Aussie Jeff Fenech, who had won the title from Satoshi Shingaki in April '85 and fought a rematch with him in August. Shingaki is the only boxer Fenech fought twice in '85. Bill Mordey was the promoter for both fights.

Reading each of the incidents brought forth by the IBF indictment can be gut wrenching for a fight fan, especially the casual observer whose impressions of the sport are much more innocent than those of the diehard. Anyone who has avidly followed boxing for any period of time knows there is some serious sludge slopped all over this sport's foundation.

The past year has been an ugly one for boxing: the IBF, fight fixing reports, Randie Carver's death, Eugenia Williams, Mike Tyson, Ike Ibeabuchi, De La Hoya-Trinidad, Naseem Hamed ...

But the IBF indictment could turn out to be the best thing to happen to boxing since Cassius Clay first walked into a Louisville gym. The ensuing trials and further indictments could lead to widespread reform.

"It has long been my opinion that the ratings organizations are a cancer on the sport of boxing," said HBO Sports Senior Vice President Lou DiBella. "It is the organizations, the very people who are empowered with rating boxers and selecting champions and otherwise administering the sport, who have been the problem."

Positive changes, maybe not coincidentally, took place days after the IBF indictment, when The Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Bill passed the House of Representatives. The bill takes major steps toward protecting boxers from being exploited by promoters, managers, and sanctioning bodies.

"We're going to chase hangers-on and self-promoters out of the game," said Congressman Mike Oxley, the bill's House sponsor. "We want to make sure fights are fair. There's nothing more American than a fair fight."

Whether it's the Ali Bill or the IBF

(Continued on page 64)

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Example: Lennox Lewis KOs David Tua to defend his title. Lewis picks up 3 points for the win, 1 for the KO, 1 for defending his title, and 1 for fighting a top 10 contender, for a total of 6 points. Tua loses 3 points for the loss and 1 for the KO, but gains 1 point for fighting a champ resulting in a loss of 3 points

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- ❑ Felix Trinidad

Lots of Hype
- ❑ Tony Ayala
- ❑ Naseem Hamed
- ❑ Lennox Lewis
- ❑ Ricardo Lopez
- ❑ David Reid
- ❑ Johnny Tapia
- ❑ Mike Tyson
- ❑ Fernando Vargas

Take My Belt, Please
- ❑ Jongkwon Baek
- ❑ Javier Castillejo
- ❑ Lehonolo Ledwaba
- ❑ Manuel Medina
- ❑ Teronn Millett
- ❑ Jesus Rojas
- ❑ Paul Spadafora
- ❑ Stefano Zoff

Let's See More
- ❑ Lamon Brewster
- ❑ Dennis Holbaek
- ❑ Kofi Jantuah
- ❑ Lemuell Nelson
- ❑ Augie Sanchez
- ❑ Cory Spinks
- ❑ Michael Trabant
- ❑ Adan Vargas

Solid
- ❑ Lou Del Valle
- ❑ Willie Jorrin
- ❑ Wladimir Klitschko
- ❑ Andrew Lewis
- ❑ Kevin Palmer
- ❑ Shannan Taylor
- ❑ Goyo Vargas
- ❑ Angel Vazquez

On The Verge
- ❑ Hector Camacho Jr.
- ❑ Joel Cassamayor
- ❑ Guty Espadas Jr.
- ❑ Acelino Freitas
- ❑ Zab Judah
- ❑ Diego Morales
- ❑ Eric Morel
- ❑ Harry Simon

Wearing a Belt
- ❑ Tim Austin
- ❑ Paulie Ayala
- ❑ In Joo Choo
- ❑ Diego Corrales
- ❑ Stevie Johnston
- ❑ Freddie Norwood
- ❑ Irene Pacheco
- ❑ Kastya Tszyu

Not Enough Hype
- ❑ Randall Bailey
- ❑ Mbulelo Botile
- ❑ Johnny Bredahl
- ❑ Will Grigsby
- ❑ Lovemore N'Dou
- ❑ Mamdou Thiam
- ❑ Clinton Woods
- ❑ Winky Wright

Let's See Less
- ❑ Henry Akinwande
- ❑ Hector Camacho
- ❑ Julio Cesar Chavez
- ❑ Arturo Gatti
- ❑ Kennedy McKinney
- ❑ Brian Nielsen
- ❑ Rafael Ruelas
- ❑ Pernell Whitaker

Still Got Something
- ❑ Laurent Boudouani
- ❑ John Brown
- ❑ Michael Carbajal
- ❑ Antonio Cermeno
- ❑ Luisito Espinosa
- ❑ Angel Manfredy
- ❑ Wayne McCullough
- ❑ Gerry Penalosa

Second to One
- ❑ Marco A. Barrera
- ❑ Nestor Garza
- ❑ Keith Holmes
- ❑ Evander Holyfield
- ❑ William Joppy
- ❑ D. Michalczewski
- ❑ Sharmba Mitchell
- ❑ James Page

Top Contenders
- ❑ Pablo Chacon
- ❑ Antwun Echols
- ❑ Vernon Forrest
- ❑ Roberto Garcia
- ❑ Michael Grant
- ❑ Ike Quartey
- ❑ Antonio Tarver
- ❑ David Tua

Could Be A Force
- ❑ Antonio Diaz
- ❑ Vitaly Klitschko
- ❑ Artur Grigorian
- ❑ Ahmed Kotiev
- ❑ Michael Nunn
- ❑ Hasim Rahman
- ❑ Leonard Townsend
- ❑ Michael Trabant

More Contenders
- ❑ Jesus Chavez
- ❑ Derrick Gainer
- ❑ Eric Harding
- ❑ Juan Marquez
- ❑ Robert McCracken
- ❑ Bronco McKart
- ❑ G. Rocchigiani
- ❑ David Telesco

Solid II
- ❑ Chris Byrd
- ❑ Lincoln Carter
- ❑ Darrel Coley
- ❑ Michael Covington
- ❑ Thomas Daamgaard
- ❑ Dana Rosenblatt
- ❑ Agapito Sanchez
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Jefferson wings a left hook at Maurice Harris en route to a sixth-round knockout in one of the most exciting fights of 1999. The victory, televised by HBO, made Jefferson a hot new player in boxing's glamour division.

Photos by Mike Greenhill

The Promise Of Promising Heavyweight

Derrick Jefferson:

"I'LL NEVER PLAY IT SAFE!"

By Joe Santoliquito

"Derrick Jefferson, I love you"
—LARRY MERCHANT, HBO BOXING ANALYST

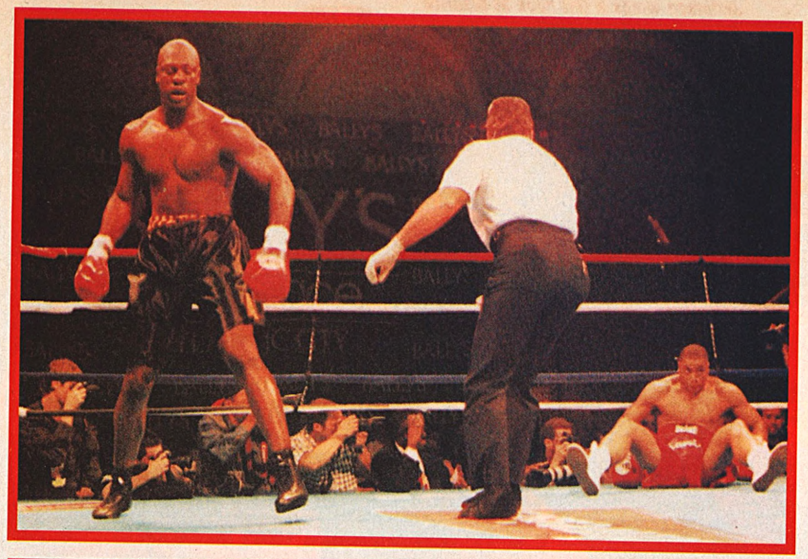
Derrick Jefferson has been going to Leftkosky's Deli in Detroit for 15 years for their irresistible corned beef sandwiches, and never once was he ever given any special consideration. The usual pleasantries were exchanged, followed by a quick recap of how the guys at the counter were doing, but this time was different. When Jefferson reached into his pocket, the owner waved him off, pointing to himself. This time, it was on him.

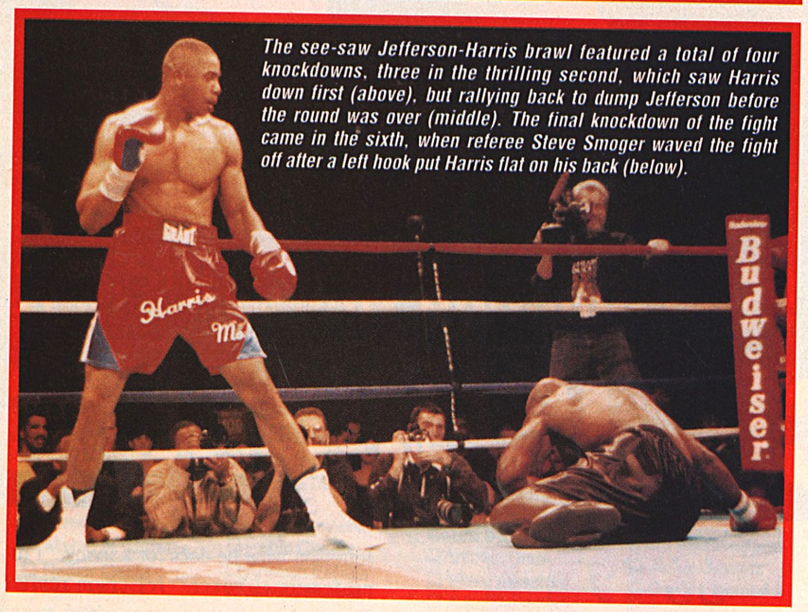
A couple of days later, Jefferson was stopped by a Michigan state trooper. One look down at Jefferson's license, and another quick glance up at the large man behind the wheel caused the trooper to ask Jefferson what he does for a living. "I'm a professional boxer," Jefferson replied. Then it came to the trooper where he saw Jefferson before, and he cut him a break on a possible speeding ticket.

The Detroit, Michigan, heavyweight knew then that he had arrived.

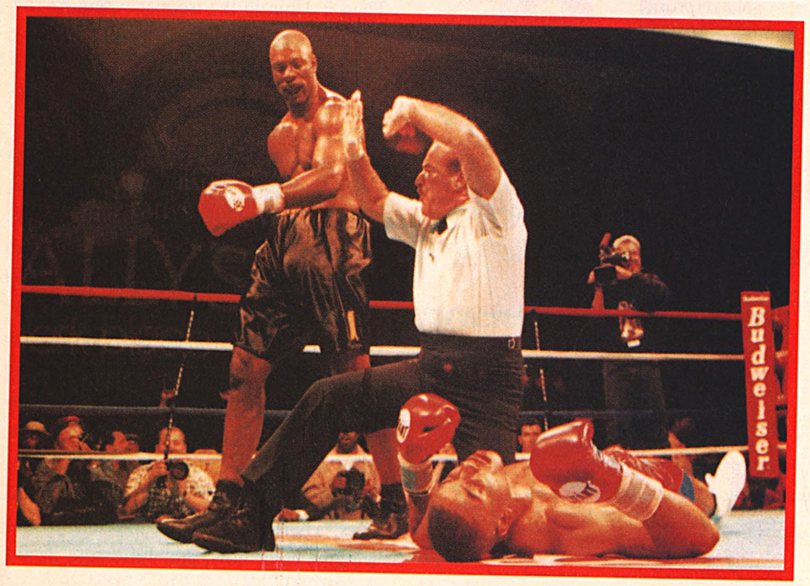
It seems Merchant was not the only one giving Jefferson love after his sterling performance against Maurice Harris on November 6 at the Atlantic City Boardwalk Convention Center on HBO's *Boxing After Dark*. Jefferson's sixth-round knockout of Harris even impressed deli owners and state troopers.

In his zeal to prove himself against Harris, the 6'6", 245-pound Jefferson may have received a little more than a corned beef deluxe on the house and a driving pass. There is a void of exciting heavyweights right now, and Jefferson, 22-0-1





The see-saw Jefferson-Harris brawl featured a total of four knockdowns, three in the thrilling second, which saw Harris down first (above), but rallying back to dump Jefferson before the round was over (middle). The final knockdown of the fight came in the sixth, when referee Steve Smoger waved the fight off after a left hook put Harris flat on his back (below).



(18), may be the cure for a weight class that had just about flatlined.

Consider: David Tua, the IBF's number-one contender, is playing it safe, fighting soft opponents to keep his lofty status intact; Michael Grant is a big, talented contender, but has a tendency to coast when he should be going for the knockout; Mike Tyson is no longer the "Iron Mike" of old; and undisputed champion Lennox Lewis is so humdrum, even the Brits have trouble getting excited about him.

Jefferson, on the other hand, is an action fighter who forces his opponents to fight. Too often boxing fans get stuck with watching heavyweights who do as little as possible to win. In Jefferson, they have a heavyweight hungry for more than just a tasty sandwich. He received $75,000 for the Harris fight, with the strong chance of lining up larger paydays ahead. Even the usually stoic Merchant bubbled over the possibility of Jefferson fighting a Grant or Tua. Jefferson had Lou DiBella, HBO Sports' senior vice president, high-fiving members of press row at ringside.

"I think Jefferson just showed he's a force to be reckoned with in the heavyweight class," said a beaming DiBella, who had not had much to smile about after the first Holyfield-Lewis fight and the major disappointment the Oscar De La Hoya-Felix Trinidad "Fight Of The Millennium" turned out to be. "What you saw tonight was fire, ability, and heart. Heavyweight boxing doesn't get any better than what the fans saw in Jefferson and Harris. I'm just hoping Holyfield and Lewis were somewhere watching this. Hopefully, they could have learned something from those two guys."

In the locker room before the Harris fight, which was sponsored by Bally's, Jefferson was experiencing more pressure than at any time during his brief pro career. His primary concern was looking good—not even winning—against Harris, 16-10-2 (9), who was a late substitute for Mount Whitaker. The fight represented an opportunity of a lifetime, and as Jefferson put on his fight gear, he could not sit still. There was a body part always in motion, whether it was his leg twitching, or his wrist bobbing on the end of a folding chair while he was getting his hands taped. It seemed as if he had to go to the bathroom 20 times in 10 minutes. All the while, the fight was already going on in Jefferson's head. He envisioned the perfect scenario, what he would do, how he would attack.

Jefferson came into the ring with desperation on his side, determined to take chances—and it showed. He cut off the ring, fought back when stunned, and above everything else, proved he would make an excellent opponent for almost any heavyweight in the world. He waffled the slightly favored Harris, knocking him down twice in the second round, then finally finished the New Jersey heavyweight with a concussive left hook that flattened him for good at 2:52 of the sixth.

The knockout is a serious candidate for Knockout of the Year. The telling blow was delivered right after Harris had connected with a right that made Jefferson wobble. Almost as a reflex, the Detroit slugger responded by nailing Harris on the sweet spot of his chin with a left hook, sending Harris' mouthpiece flying and his body stiffly toward the canvas. Referee Steve Smoger took one look over the fallen Harris and quickly called a halt to the bout.

"I gave it my all," said Harris, who upset Jeremy Williams on HBO in June and had been sparring with Lewis when he got the call to substitute for Whitaker. "But Jefferson has balls the size of grapefruits. He's a strong dude. It wasn't that I couldn't get him off me; I just got stubborn and decided to slug with him. I got stubborn like warriors get. I decided I was too hurt to box, and I got caught."

Like most people who saw his slugfest with Harris, Merchant feels that Jefferson is a very welcome addition to today's group of heavyweights, and even went as far as calling him "the heavyweight Arturo Gatti."

"Jefferson is athletic, he's strong, and he can punch," Merchant said, "and his most important asset that came out against Harris is that he wants to win. It's refreshing to see guys who are ambitious, who want to make something of themselves. It's good for boxing to have someone like Jefferson come along, someone who wants to go after something rather than those who are content to defend what they already have. Jefferson's zeal for combat is what the sport of boxing really thrives on; it's what it needs."

Merchant stopped short, however, of proclaiming Jefferson an emerging superstar. There are some things, Merchant pointed out, that Jefferson still needs to improve upon if he plans on joining the Lewises, Grants, and Tuas.

First, Jefferson has to learn the difference between an intelligent gamble and one that could lead to disaster. He took some big chances against the 211-pound Harris, chances that might backfire against bigger, harder-hitting foes. He walked through punches, got knocked down in the second, and appeared to be dazed in the sixth just before delivering his home run blow. The other factor is his age. Jefferson is 31 years old. He started boxing at 24 and turned pro at 27. True, heavyweights tend to mature later and last longer than smaller fighters, but Jefferson has no time to waste.

If Jefferson has one major advantage, it's timing. With some of the better-known heavyweights bunched up behind Lewis and seemingly unwilling to take risks, he's perfectly positioned to crash the party. And he certainly seems to have the sort of attitude that will endear him to paying customers.

(Continued on page 58)

Jefferson celebrates his spectacular kayo of Harris. Standing 6'6" tall and weighing 245 pounds, the Detroit slugger has the size, punch, and desire to give any heavyweight in the world a tough time.

LENNOX LEWIS

It was a right uppercut like this that almost took Holyfield's head off in the ninth round, but "The Real Deal" stayed on his feet and did enough positive work to convince many members of the media that he should have received the verdict that went to Lewis.

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

The Champ For The New Millennium ... Or Just For The Moment?

By Eric Raskin

The next time someone tries to tell you that two wrongs don't make a right, remind them of the saga of Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield. Sometimes, two wrongs make everything right.

The judges got the first fight between Lewis and Holyfield horribly wrong and, in the opinions of a good portion of the media and of the fans on hand at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, they may have gotten the rematch wrong, too. But the end result is as it should be: Lennox Lewis, the massive, gifted, but often disappointing Brit who was generally perceived as the second-best heavyweight in the world for most of the '90s, enters the year 2000 as the undisputed champion.

He deserved recognition as such on March 13, but judges Eugenia Williams and Larry O'Connell somehow didn't see it that way, and Lewis was stuck with a draw and no additional hardware beyond the WBC belt he'd walked in with. On November 13, when Lewis was awarded a unanimous decision, a draw wouldn't have been at all unreasonable. It would have probably caused a riot and it surely would have given the mainstream media more ammunition to bombard upon a sport that desperately needed a cease-fire, but it might have been the most fair decision.

A majority of the ringside press polled believed Holyfield had pulled it out at the end of 12 hard-fought rounds. TVKO's unofficial scorer, Harold Lederman, saw Lewis as the winner, as did two of his associates, Jim Lampley and Larry Merchant. Fellow announcers George Foreman and Roy Jones both felt it was too close to call. The online voting gave it to Lewis, seven rounds to five. Many British fans shook their heads, not entirely convinced their man had done enough. Many of the American fans who had tried to will Holyfield to yet another unexpected win felt the expected winner, Lewis, deserved the nod. THE RING saw it dead even, 114-114.

"Evander is the champion of the past," said Panos Eliades, Lewis' promoter, at the postfight press conference. "But there's one champion of the new millennium, and that is Lennox Lewis."

Don't jump the gun, Panos. You see, the new millennium doesn't officially start until January 1, 2001, and anybody who can claim to be totally confident that Lewis will still reign supreme on that date must not have seen Lewis-Holyfield II. Even though Lewis became the first man since Riddick Bowe seven years earlier to hold all three belts, he did not shine. The fight was competitive and adequately entertaining, and the controversy was kept to a minimum, so the evening was a step forward for boxing. But Lewis' reputation did little more than a passive shimmy to the side, if not a slight retreat given his better showing in the first bout with Holyfield.

Early in the opening round, it was clear that Holyfield, historically a great rematch fighter, had made some adjustments. He was slipping and blocking Lewis' jab, making an effort to *work* his way inside rather than just lunging and hoping for openings that weren't there the first time. Lewis, in return, did not adjust much at all. He was forceful with his jab in the second round and in a few of the later rounds, but when Holyfield put the pressure on, "Double-L" just pawed tentatively with the lead left, using it as a primarily defensive measure and wasting his 6½-inch reach advantage.

"I was able to negate his jab," Holyfield said afterward. "I had to do something different, and the things that I did different kinda messed him up."

Lewis had promised his two fists would be the judges this time, that he would fight aggressively and deliver a knockout—or at least try for one. But the truth is, he fought as cautiously as he had in March, only picking up the offensive pace when Holyfield's attacks forced him to respond.

After Holyfield ducked a few of Lewis' trademark overhand rights in the early rounds, the two-time WBC champ abandoned the weapon the rest of the way. And he once again showed why his choice of wearing dreadlocks atop his head is so appropriate: Is there anything we *dread* more than seeing him *locked* in a clinch? Sure, it's smart to tie "The Real Deal" up when he gets inside. But it's not the strategy of a man who's wholly confident in himself or who cares about entertaining the fans. Holyfield deserves nearly all the credit for making this rematch memorable, while Lewis just fought the same fight that made their first encounter one of the most boring affairs boxing fans saw all year.

That's not to say there weren't any positive aspects to Lewis' performance; he did win the fight, after all. The 1988 Olympic super heavyweight gold medalist showed plenty of grit, as he was rocked solidly in the thrilling seventh round, and slightly shaken up on a few other occasions, but

always responded well. He never lost his poise despite Holyfield getting away with leading with his head repeatedly. He used the right uppercut brilliantly, making Holyfield pay when he telegraphed his attempts to get inside. And he did some of his best work in rounds nine through 11, the very rounds that had cost him the victory on the judges' cards at the Garden.

Holyfield said afterward, "I feel that the fight was more of a competitive fight than the last fight." That statement can be taken as Holyfield, 36-4-1 (25), finally admitting that he didn't deserve a draw the first time, since it's hard to have a non-competitive fight without a winner. But it was also a statement that reflected the inconclusiveness hovering about as the 17,916 fans on hand awaited the decision. Holyfield said he shot a glance at Lewis as the scores of 115-113 by Jerry Roth, 116-112 by Chuck Giampa, and a highly objectionable 117-111 by Bill Graham were read, and he saw the doubt in Lewis' eyes before the winner's name was announced.

"When he was hearing the scores, he was like, *Oh my goodness*," the three-time former champ said. "He was thinking, *I didn't lose that bad*."

"I was concerned because it went to the decision," Lewis, 35-1-1 (27), admitted, expressing an anxiety that might have been alleviated had he lived up to his prefight promise of increased aggression. "I was really concerned because I realized he wasn't doing any work in the beginning of the rounds, and he was trying to steal it at the end of the rounds. I didn't know what the judges were looking for. So I was trying to bide my time and score the points at the same time."

This is not what we like to hear from

NOT A NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER

November has always been a big month for Holyfield. He made his pro debut in November '84. The first time he defended a world title in his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, it was against Bert Cooper in November '91. All three of his bouts with Riddick Bowe—when he lost the heavyweight title, when he regained it, and when he suffered his only career kayo defeat—came in November. His career-reviving first win over Mike Tyson was in November '96, and the following November, he unified two-thirds of the heavyweight crown by stopping Michael Moorer.

But Guns 'N Roses told us "nothing lasts forever" in their hit "November Rain," and Holyfield's unanimous decision defeat to Lewis, another November reign-ending loss, probably marked the last time we'll see the great Holyfield wearing a world title belt. It wasn't for a lack of trying on "The Real Deal's" part, however.

Holyfield, 217, came into the first round of his rematch with the Brit intent on getting inside. He deflected many of Lewis' jabs and fired a few jabs of his own, but the most telling punches of the round were a pair of right uppercuts by Lewis late in the stanza. Lewis, 242, London, England, worked beautifully behind the jab in the second round, and suddenly the contest was looking like a replay of their March 13 snoozer.

But the momentum turned late in the third when Holyfield, who was making his fifth defense of this reign as WBA champ and his third defense of the IBF belt, stole what had been a Lewis round by landing a booming right hand followed by a solid right-left combination. After a nondescript fourth, the action picked up in round five, with Holyfield landing a crackling left hook, and Lewis coming back so aggressively that referee Mitch Halpern (USA) had to leap in and grab both fighters with all his might to prevent them from tumbling over the top rope. The collision left Lewis, who was making the sixth defense of his second WBC title reign, with a small cut above his right eye, but it never became a factor.

Round seven was by far the best of the 24 fought by the two champions. Holyfield wobbled Lewis with a short left hook midway through the round, and the WBC champ stumbled back into the ropes with a goofy smile on his face. Holyfield, sensing an opportunity to finish the job, moved in and fired away along the ropes, but Lewis eventually began retaliating and appeared to stun Holyfield with a left hand during a wild exchange at the end of the round.

Lewis' reach advantage was difficult to overcome

Holyfield stepped up his body attack in the eighth while Lewis became increasingly tentative with his jab, but the Englishman did some fine body work himself in the ninth and, toward the end of the round, scored with his best shot of the evening, a vicious, neck-snapping right uppercut. Holyfield seemed low on fuel after that, as Lewis took the 10th and 11th on all three official scorecards by whipping out a hard, busy jab and tying Holyfield up effectively whenever the WBA/IBF champ moved in close.

Holyfield rallied with a big right-left to open the 12th, and appeared to dominate the rest of the round, but it wasn't enough. Two of the Las Vegas judges, Bill Graham and Chuck Giampa, didn't even give Holyfield the final round, and all three scored against the Hall-of-Fame-bound warrior in the overall voting. Both fighters earned $15-million for their efforts, salaries that were justified by the better-than-expected 850,000 pay-per-view buys and an all-time boxing record $16.9-million gate.

Television: TVKO

Promoters: Don King Productions, Panix Promotions, & Main Events

(11-13-99)

—ER

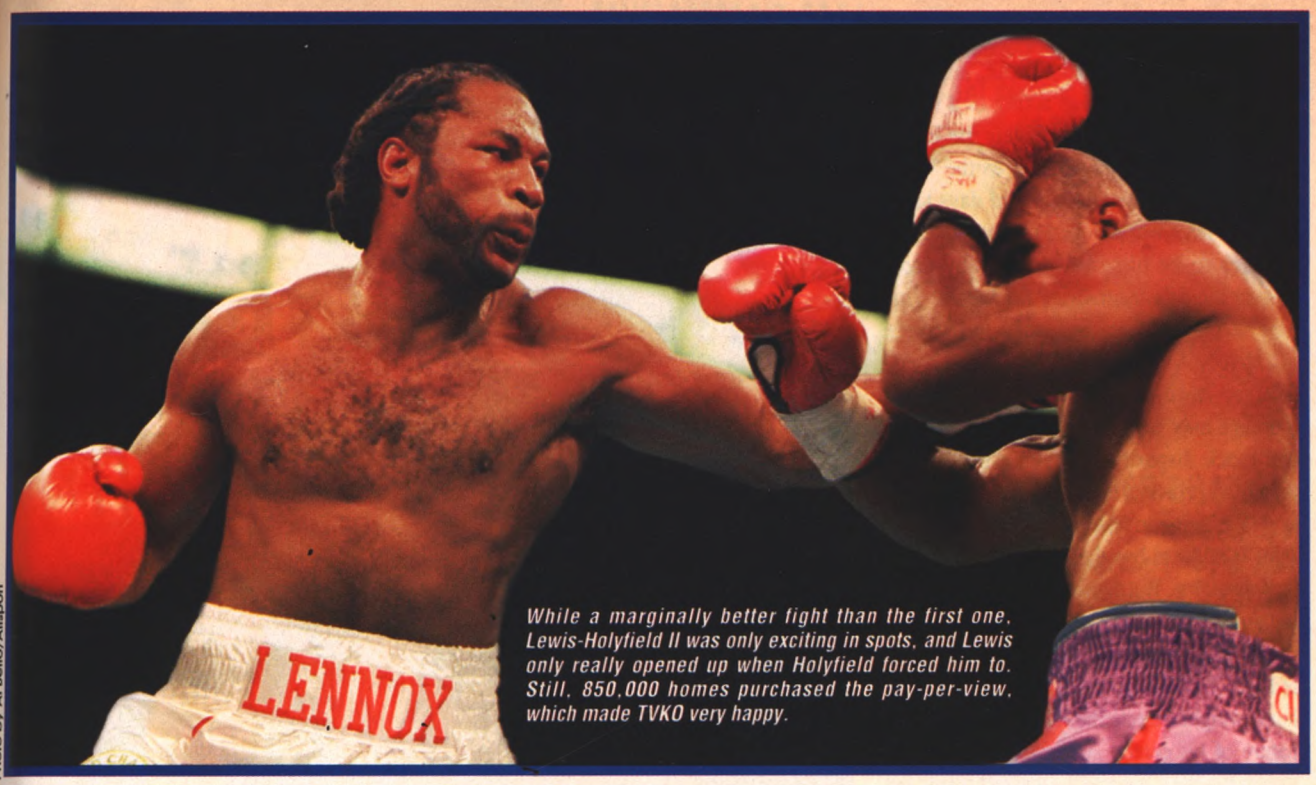


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

While a marginally better fight than the first one, Lewis-Holyfield II was only exciting in spots, and Lewis only really opened up when Holyfield forced him to. Still, 850,000 homes purchased the pay-per-view, which made TVKO very happy.

our undisputed heavyweight champions, but in the 10-plus years that the 34-year-old Lewis has been on the pro scene, this is the attitude we've come to accept. With just one loss (later avenged) in 37 fights, there's no denying that Lewis' methods are successful. But they have thus far denied him the enduring greatness that may have been attainable. A truly great champion does not struggle this much against a slipping 37-year-old who gives away 2½ inches and 25 pounds. And Lewis, though the undisputed champion, is running out of time to prove himself as truly great. Rather, he may just be a temporary link between the Holyfield era and the era of whichever young heavyweight emerges to lead boxing into the next millennium.

"There are definitely some younger guys that could hurt Lennox Lewis," said former junior lightweight champ Genaro Hernandez, who was working the fight as a Spanish-language commentator for HBO. Hernandez scored the fight for Holyfield by a slight margin and felt the wide official scores for Lewis were the result of overcompensation for the Madison Square Garden robbery. "Lennox has a suspect chin," Hernandez said. "He got rocked a couple of times by Holyfield. When was Evander hurt? The only time that Evander got hurt was at the end of the seventh round when they were exchanging punches, where he wobbled a little back to his corner. But other than that, he landed the better punches. With Lewis on top, the heavyweight division is up for grabs."

Indeed, as trying a journey as it was for Lewis to finally get to the top of the mountain, it may get even tougher now that he's there. Lewis, who relied so heavily on his age and size advantages to get past Holyfield, now must confront a host of credible contenders with those same advantages over him. The 6'7", 27-year-old Michael Grant has been tabbed by many as the leader of the new wave, and HBO is hot to match him with Lewis in early-2000. The Ukrainian Klitschko brothers, undefeated 6'8" Vitaly and the more skillful 6'7" Wladimir, are both imposing threats, and there has been talk of a March 2000 battle between Lewis and Vitaly. The 6'6" Derrick Jefferson has also emerged recently as a force worth watching because, in addition to his size and adequate skills, he is overflowing with the fire Lewis lacks.

Unfortunately, a glimpse into Lewis' future would not be complete without that word that makes boxing fans double over in pain as if whacked with a Rocky Marciano bodyshot: "mandatory." The WBC, whose tendency to operate with no regard to logic is finally working in boxing's favor, decided for some reason that Holyfield, though unranked by the organization, qualified as Lewis' mandatory challenger. That means Lewis vs. John Ruiz will not be forced upon us just yet, making Jose Sulaiman THE RING's winner of the Sanctioning Body President of the Year award.

The WBA, on the other hand, still deserves every ounce of our wrath. Their number-one contender is Henry Akinwande, who already had his shot at Lewis and chose to slow dance rather than fight. Sadly, we'll probably have to endure a rematch in 2000 unless hepatitis can step up and save the day again. "I think it's preposterous for me to fight Henry Akinwande again," Lewis said a few days after unifying the title, choosing the perfect word to describe the least anticipated rematch in boxing.

Then there's the IBF, who nearly ruined the unification party by pulling out at the last minute—literally—when they refused to sanction the Lewis-Holyfield rematch just seconds before the bell was to ring. The New Jersey-based sanctioning body's president, Bob Lee, was indicted in early-November for allegedly taking bribes to manipulate the rankings, and due to resulting confusion regarding the IBF's status, the $300,000 sanctioning fee Lewis owed them was placed in escrow.

At the postfight press conference, an almost comical debate erupted between Pat

English, the lawyer for Lewis' American promotional arm, Main Events, and Don King, who suddenly was acting as a representative of the IBF. Lewis left the building that night recognized only as the WBC and WBA titlist, but a couple of days later, an agreement was reached for the sanctioning fees to be turned over, thereby completing the title triumvirate for Lewis. This means David Tua, the only legitimate mandatory contender, still looms in Lewis' future, though it seems the 5'10½" Samoan may be facing too great a height and reach disparity for even a man of his punching prowess to overcome.

"I'm going to take on all comers," Lewis said. "I'd like to box the new guys, the young heavyweights. But I also want to fight all the big guys from my era."

By that, Lewis means he wants his crack at Mike Tyson, who's still the money-man at heavyweight despite the increasingly farcical nature of his career. And for those who say Tyson's appeal has totally washed away, get a load of this: With more than 34,000 votes cast on ESPN's Web site responding to the question of who people would like to see Lewis face next, an overwhelming 58 percent picked Tyson, nearly 40 percentage points ahead of second-place finisher Grant. Lewis is on the same page as the public.

"I think Tyson is the most exciting fight for me right now," Lewis said. "He has that drawing ability. He is a man who used to be great trying to get his life in order. People want to know: Is he the man he used to be? How would he cope with Lewis? How would Lewis cope with him?"

If Lewis does in fact cope with and defeat Tyson, Grant, Tua, and a Klitschko or two, even if he does so with his usual lack of flair, he will have earned a spot among the all-time great heavyweights. But the performances the Englishman gave against Holyfield make it hard to envision that scenario playing out. Lewis is the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world, and a deserving one. But somehow this feels much more like a transitional period than the dawning of a new era. ■

Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

Rule Britania! The victory over Holyfield made Lewis the first undisputed heavyweight champion from England since Bob Fitzsimmons knocked out Jim Corbett in 1897.

HOW THEY SCORED IT

Below are the round-by-round scorecards of the three official judges, the fans voting on-line on excite.com, and THE RING:

Judges	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8	Round 9	Round 10	Round 11	Round 12	Total
Chuck Giampa	10-9L	10-9L	10-9L	10-9L	10-9H	10-9H	10-9H	10-9L	10-9H	10-9L	10-9L	10-9L	116-112 Lewis
Bill Graham	10-9L	10-9L	10-9L	10-9L	10-9H	10-9H	10-9H	10-9L	10-9L	10-9L	10-9L	10-9L	117-111 Lewis
Jerry Roth	10-9L	10-9L	10-9H	10-9L	10-9L	10-9H	10-9H	10-9H	10-9L	10-9L	10-9L	10-9H	115-113 Lewis
On-Line	10-9H	10-9L	10-9H	10-9L	10-9L	10-9H	10-9H	10-9L	10-9L	10-9L	10-9L	10-9H	115-113 Lewis
THE RING	10-9L	10-9L	10-9H	10-9H	10-9L	10-9H	10-9H	10-9H	10-9L	10-9L	10-9L	10-9H	114-114 Even

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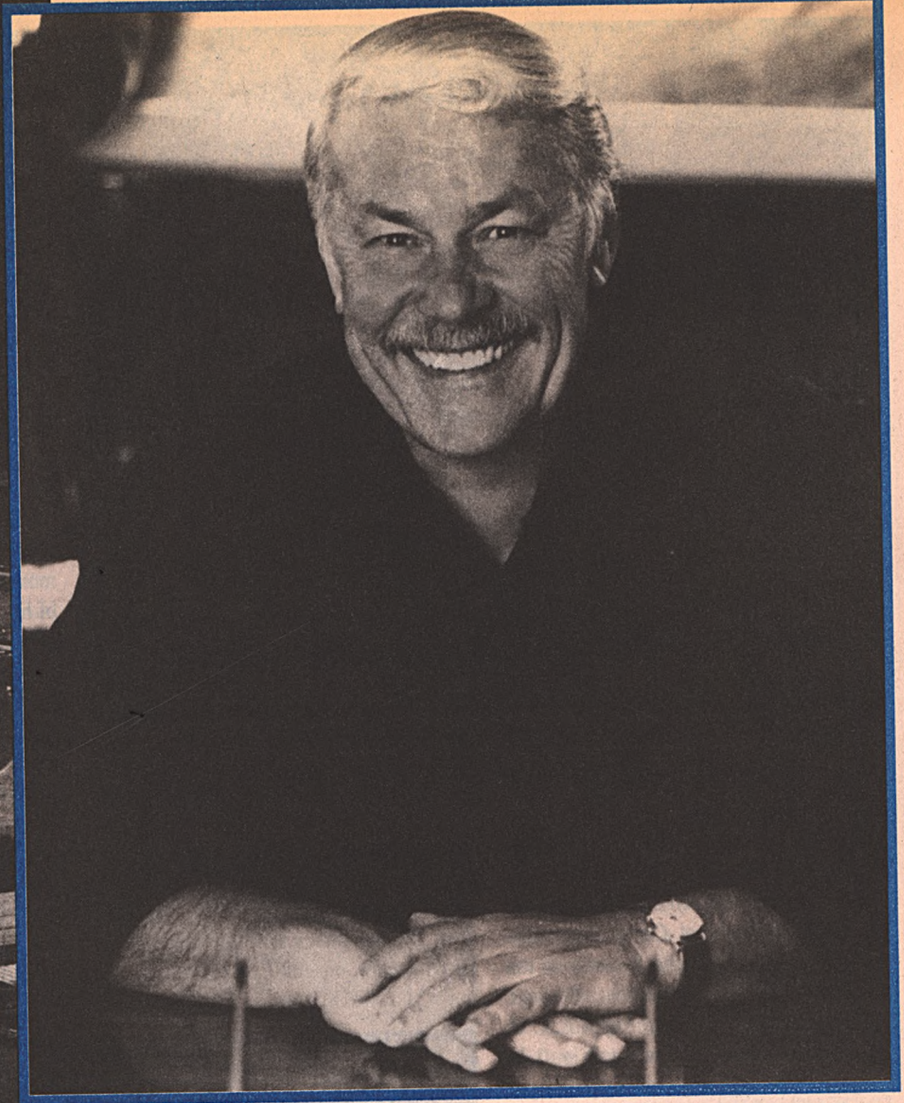
JERRY BUSS DITCHES FORUM BOXING

"I Doubt We've Ever Made Any Money On Any Given Fight"



It was a sad day for boxing and the end of an era when Jerry Buss (above) sold the Great Western Forum last year and closed down the boxing program he'd sponsored at the building since 1982.

By Ivan Goldman

Most fans don't realize it, but not long ago an ex-chemistry professor by the name of Jerry Buss was one of the top boxing promoters in the country. But even in his heyday, sports tycoon Buss, dealmaker extraordinaire and majority owner of basketball's Los Angeles Lakers, was barely recognized outside Southern California. It's the way he wanted it.

Buss was always different from other promoters of big fights. If you stuck him in a room with them, he would almost surely be the only one to talk about lesser fighters with big hearts—the ones who provide the foundation for the multimillion-dollar superfights all promoters thirst for. And while the others were bragging about all the big deals they made and bitching about the ones that got away, Buss would be trying to turn the discussion away from the bottom line and toward issues like pensions and health insurance for the fighters.

In the cruel world of the boxing business, Buss' mind set was almost guaranteed to meet with failure. And it did.

At the end of 1999, he finally had to turn off the switch on his Forum Boxing promotional outfit, which he figures lost him $7-million during its 17-year run. He could not quite bring himself to call it finished, but there were no cards scheduled beyond 1999 and Buss had sold his Great Western Forum in Southern California to a consortium of other rich men who had no plans to put on boxing shows there.

"I doubt we've ever made any money on any given fight," Buss said in a private interview shortly after sponsoring his final card in the Forum. "But I thought perhaps it would grow. We have a certain number of fans who are very loyal, good fans. But they didn't bring their friends.

"Sports need season tickets to make it work. That's the whole concept. That's how other sports survive. We tried very hard, but we just didn't cut it. Two-thousand season tickets would do it, but we couldn't sell them."

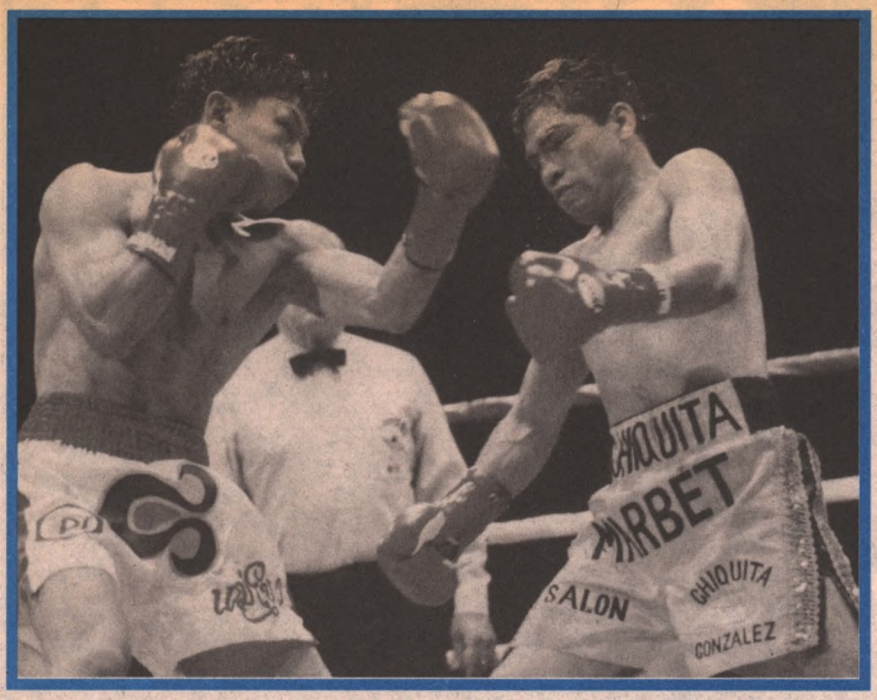
Buss, the master dealmaker who made hundreds of millions in real estate and team sports, refused to unleash his killer business instincts on the fighters. So the big fish got away, signing with other promoters because time after time Buss declined to corner them into surrendering options or signing long-term contracts.

Fighters like Saman Sorjaturong could come to California and kayo Forum fighter Chiquita Gonzalez for a title, then take his new belt back to Thailand, never to be seen in the U.S. again. Other Forum fighters were lured away by small signing bonuses or empty promises. Mark Johnson, then the IBF flyweight champion, quit to sign with Cedric Kushner, but soon discovered the rarely changing reality that little guys make little purses.

"Our whole concept," Buss said, "was to give people choices, to allow them to move up and do the best they can, whether they stay with us or move on. I like boxing, and I wanted to make it work that way."

But without teeth, you just can't swim with the sharks. World-class businessman Buss made the mistake of being a genuine fight fan, which interfered with business.

Nowadays, anyone who planned to hold 25 boxing cards a year in a stadium with nearly 19,000 seats would be taken away in a straitjacket. It doesn't matter what city you're in. Only a few extravaganzas per year will draw that kind of crowd. But when Buss started Forum



One of Buss' problems was that he was reluctant to sign fighters to long-term contracts. So when Saman Sorjaturong captured the WBC light flyweight title from Forum house fighter Chiquita Gonzalez in 1995, he took the belt back to Thailand and never fought at the Forum again.

Boxing in 1982, filling seats didn't seem such a formidable task.

Under previous owner Jack Kent Cooke, the Forum had put on 105 boxing shows between 1968 and 1982, averaging 7,836 fans per show. Cards were also pulling in fans down the freeway at the Olympic. Savvy promoters George Parnassus and Aileen Eaton kept L.A. in the thick of things. For a while, Los Angeles was arguably the biggest fight town in the U.S.

In the first Forum show, on June 14, 1968, Chucho Castillo decisioned Jesus Pimentel before 16,595 fans. When Ruben Olivares kayoed Lionel Rose in 1969, the fight drew 18,408. The next year, when Olivares decisioned Castillo, attendance was 18,141.

Boxing at the Forum had passed its peak when Buss took over, but it wasn't easy at the time to see just how serious the decline was. The descent looked like a losing stock chart, with the line rising and falling, but the overall trend was down. Looking back now, we can see that the economics of boxing were already pulling fights away from their natural constituency in the big cities into the casinos, which paid site fees to lure fans and their wallets. The Forum just couldn't hold it together.

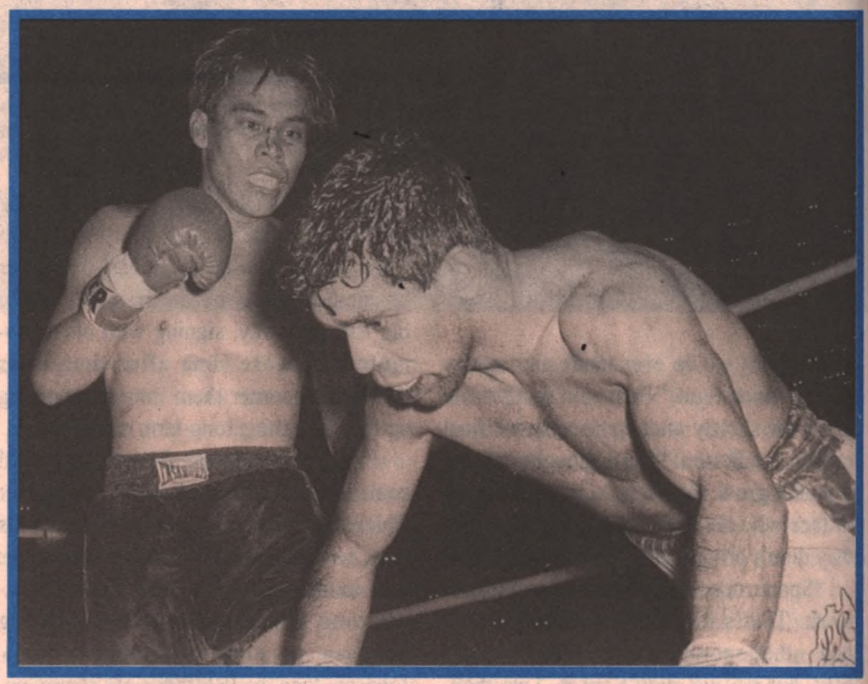
From 1982 through '99, Buss staged 302 cards at the Forum and additional cards at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim, California, and other venues around Nevada. Included were 55 world title fights, not counting 13 less-regarded WBO contests. Even as late as '95, Forum Boxing was big enough to promote the very first HBO *Boxing After Dark* card, when junior feather Marco Antonio Barrera kayoed Kennedy McKinney in one of the best fights of the year. That card was probably the best of a long string of *B.A.D.* successes. But HBO never returned.

Buss championed the concept of tournaments. Ranked fighters wouldn't enter because their managers didn't want to commit them to fights without knowing the identity of their opponents. But that was okay. The tournament contestants were hungry and they usually put on terrific shows. The first tournament winner was Rudy Hernandez, older brother and trainer of long-time junior lightweight champ Genaro Hernandez.

"After Rudy won," Buss recalled, "he told me how he was going to use the money to get an eye operation for an uncle of his. There were tears in his eyes. It really was quite a moment for me."

They were moments that kept Buss in the business long after it stopped making financial sense. And by the end of its tenure, the Forum had been deserted by the big-shot alphabet bandits. Straight shooter Buss refused to pay money under the table for rankings or title shots, and it cost him. The last few crowds were down to a meager 1,200 or so. Sprinkled around such a big arena, they looked lost. The Forum smelled of failure.

Hampering Buss' operation from the



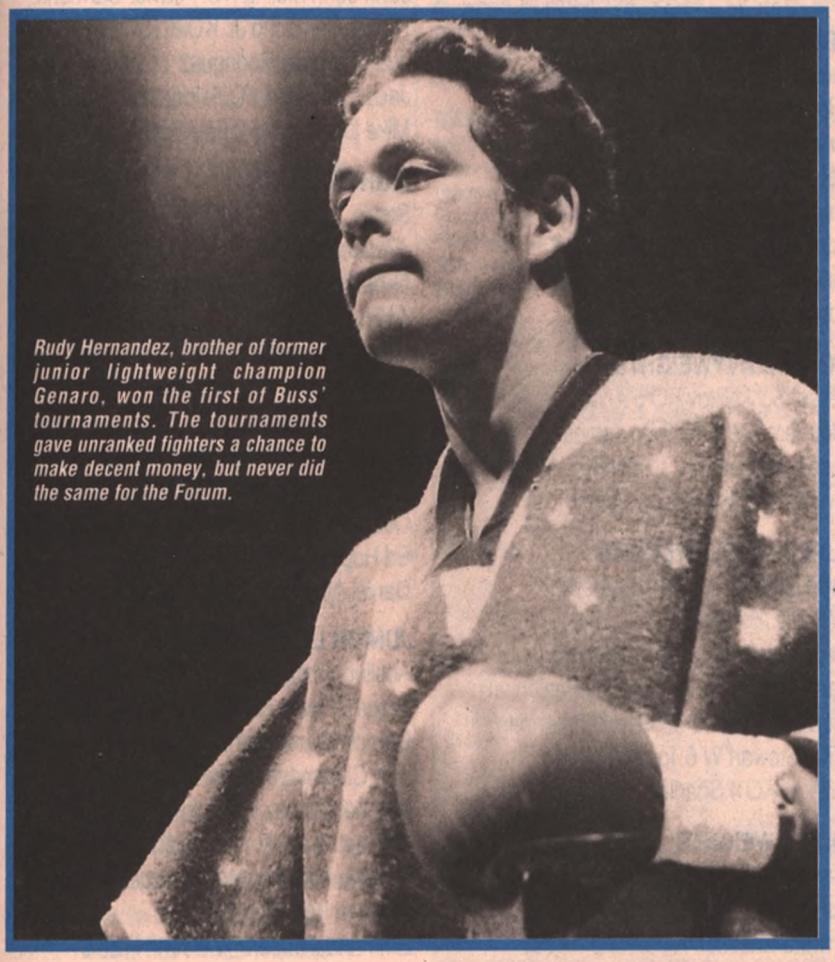
During the glory days of Forum boxing, huge crowds turned out on a regular basis. Popular drawing card Ruben Olivares drew more than 18,000 paying customers to watch him take the bantamweight crown away from Lionel Rose in 1969.

very beginning was his reluctance to step forward and talk to the press. Buss is flamboyant. He dates beautiful, much younger women, and he is not shy about squiring them around town. But he is not hungry for media attention. He left all that to Vice President John Jackson, a former football coach, to matchmaker Tony Curtis, and to his publicity men, first John Beyrooty and later Bob Steiner.

Although Buss attended just about every card, he declined to pop into the ring after a big fight to grab the spotlight, which is the way of Kushner, Bob Arum, and especially Don King, who has one of the most recognized faces and loudest mouths in the world. With no owner out front, mainstream media failed to respond to Forum Boxing publicity initiatives. Reporters from little radio stations would show up at press conferences to snag a free lunch, but most of the important media stayed away.

And stuck in a one-newspaper town, Forum Boxing was at the mercy of a newspaper that clearly despised boxing. If fans wanted to follow local fighters and fights, they couldn't do it reading *The Los Angeles Times*. In its last years, the Forum spent years trying to build a buzz around its talented, heavy-fisted featherweight Juan Manuel Marquez. But last year when he finally got his title shot against WBA champ Freddie Norwood, *The Times* devoted all of four paragraphs to Marquez' questionable decision loss in Las Vegas. Meanwhile, *The Times* slavishly devoted huge sections of newsprint to a virtual army of the dullest golfers and tennis players you never heard of.

Unlike Buss, former Forum promoter George Parnassus wasn't publicity shy. Here he dons a sombrero in honor of the many Mexican and Mexican-American fighters, such as Chucho Castillo, Jesus Pimentel, and Olivares, who helped fill the Southern California arena in the 1970s.



Rudy Hernandez, brother of former junior lightweight champion Genaro, won the first of Buss' tournaments. The tournaments gave unranked fighters a chance to make decent money, but never did the same for the Forum.

The Times would grudgingly cover multimillion-dollar fights, but they were not to be found at the Forum. Buss, although richer than Arum, King, and the other promoters, declined to compete with them dollar for dollar. Boxing was his hobby, not his primary business.

"I'd rather see a really good fight between two unknown fighters than watch a well-known fighter and a hamburger," he said. "And that's kind of the way that game has to be played. I just wanted good fights."

Buss supports The Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act, "but I think it falls

(Continued on page 64)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Lennox Lewis W 12 Evander Holyfield
(Unifies Title)
Michael Grant KO 10 Andrew Golota
Derrick Jefferson KO 6 Maurice Harris
Oleg Maskaev KO 8 Hasim Rahman
Wladimir Klitschko KO 2 Phil Jackson
Obed Sullivan KO 3 Matt Green
Obed Sullivan KO 3 Ronnie Smith
Al Cole KO 8 Brian Nix
Brian Nielsen KO 1 Don Normand
Jorge Luis Gonzalez W 10 Greg Page
Eliecer Castillo W 10 Frankie Swindell
Adolpho Washington KO 3
Rocky Ray Phillips
Ezra Sellers KO 6 Miguel Burgos
Tim Puller W 10 James Tillis
Fres Oquendo W 10 Bert Cooper
Vincenzo Cantatore KO 4 Damon Reed
Tommy Martin W 10 Sherman Williams
Harold Sconiers KO 5 Bryant Smith
Cliff Etienne KO 1 Dan Conway
Josue Blocus KO 1 Clarence Goins

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Fabrice Tiozzo KO 7 Ken Murphy
(Retains WBA Title)
Johnny Nelson KO 4 Christophe Girard
Kenny Keene W 12 Rob Calloway
Mark Prince KO 1 Kevin Mitchell
Adam Watt KO 4 Lightning Lupe
Dirk Wallyn KO 3 Tamas Elekes
Turan Bagci W 8 Rudiger May

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Andrei Schkalikov KO 5 Anatoly Kushnov
Ole Klemetsen KO 3 Bo James
Jose Luis Rivera KO 3 Etianne Whitaker
Elvir Muriqi W 6 Fermin Chirino

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Sven Ottke W 12 Glen Johnson
(Retains IBF Title)
Mads Larsen KO 1 Ron Martinez
Dana Rosenblatt W 12 Vinny Pazienza
Glen Johnson KO 1 Cheo Zimmerman
Willie Stewart W 6 Tony Robinson
Laila Ali KO 4 Shadina Pennybaker

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Armand Krajnc KO 8 Jason Matthews
Cornelius Carr W 12 Dingaan Thobela
Howard Eastman KO 8 Mike Algoet
Mpush Makambi KO 2 Ensley Bingham
Santiago Samaniego KO 1 Angel Beltre

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Yory Boy Campas KO 5 Rudy Lovato
Paul Vaden KO 10 Stephan Johnson
Andrew Murray KO 3 Michael Covington
Carl Daniels KO 7 Robert Frazier
Mamadou Thiam KO 6 Valentino Manca
Cleveland Corder KO 4 Brooke Welby
Michael Rask W 12 Howard Clarke
Antonio Margarito KO 5 Buck Smith
Nader Hamdan W 12 Les Crow
Michael Lerma KO 2 Larry Kenney

WELTERWEIGHTS
Ahmed Katejew W 12 Daniel Santos
Thomas Damgaard KO 2 Jose Luis Benitez
John-John Molina W 10 Manuel Garnica
Frank Houghtaling W 8 Livingstone Bramble
Oktay Urkal W 6 Oscar Gonzales

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Elio Ortiz
(Retains WBA Title)
Antonio Diaz KO 7 Terrell Finger
Ivan Robinson KO 2 Tyrone Flucker
John-John Molina KO 1 Javier Carmona
Hector Camacho Jr. KO 3
Juan Camella Rodriguez
Jason Rowland KO 5 Jonathan Thaxton
Mike Stewart KO 2 Felix Marti

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Stevie Johnston W 12 Billy Schwer
(Retains WBC Title)
Gilbert Serrano KO 10 Stefano Zoff
(Wins WBA Title)
Artur Grigorijan KO 10 Wilson Galli
Jean-Baptiste Mendy KO 4
Augustin Lorenzo
Julien Lorcy KO 5 Moise Rodriguez
Lovemore Ndou W 10 Gustavo Cuello
Oscar Garcia Cano W 12 Djamel Lifa
Ed Hopson W 8 Pablo Sarmiento
Daniel Attah KO 2 Domenico Monaco

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Acelino Freitas KO 2 Anthony Martinez
Jesus Chavez KO 5 Adarryl Johnson
Derrick Gainer W 10 Sergio Liendo
Joel Casamayor W 12 David Santos
Michael Gomez W 12 Jose Manjarrez
Michael Alldis W 12 Patrick Mullings
Tontcho Tontchev W 12 Pascal Montulet
Tiger Ari KO 3 Kenji Ryuki
Emmanuel Lucero W 8 John Hibble

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Paul Ingle W 12 Manuel Medina
(Wins IBF Title)
Juan Manuel Marquez KO 8
Remigio Molina
Angel Vazquez KO 5 Alexis Barcelay
Mbulelo Botile W 10 Hector Lizarraga
Junior Jones W 10 Tracy Patterson
Clarence Adams W 10 Aristead Clayton
Edgar Barcenas KO 10 Amador Vazquez
Phillip Ndou KO 1 Len Martinez
Max Gomez W 10 Juan Torres
Dino Olivetti KO 8 Akifumi Yoshizaki

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Nestor Garza KO 12 Kozo Ishii
(Retains WBA Title)
Jorge Paredes W 10 Kennedy McKinney
Richie Wenton KO 3 Graham McGrath
Gregorio Medina W 12
Jose Manuel Navarro
Arnel Barotillo KO 3 Kengkarun Tanuin
Frankie Archuleta W Disq. 6
Marcos Badillo
Sergio Aguila W 8 Tomoaki Iwasa

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Pedro Torres W 12 Dario Azuaga
Johnny Bredahl KO 1 Paul Lloyd
Noel Wilders W 12 Francis Ampofo
Simone Ramoni W 12 Sando Koczak

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Mark Johnson No-Contest 4 Raul Juarez
(Retains IBF Title)
Hideki Todaka W 12 Akihiko Nago
(Retains WBA Title)
Adonis Rivas W 12 Diego Morales
Samson 3K-Battery KO 5 Oleg Saikolov

FLYWEIGHTS
Gerson Guerrero KO 5 Hugo Cazares
Hiroshi Nakano W 12 Melvin Magramo
Zolile Mbityi W 12 Dimitar Alpiev

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Erick Ortiz KO 11 Alfredo Virgen
Gustavo Andrade W 8 Andy Tabanas

STRAWWEIGHTS
Jose Aguirre KO 2 Juan Carlos Moreno
Kermin Guardia W 12 Luis Lazarte
Juanito Rubillar KO 6 Nico Thomas

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

In a month when several boxers gave sensational performances worthy of Fighter of the Month consideration—most notably, Erik Morales, Diego Corrales, and Yeosam Choi—the award comes down to significance of accomplishment. In that area, nobody can touch Lewis, who didn't exactly turn in a performance for the ages, but did pull off a feat for the history books, becoming the first undisputed heavyweight champion in seven years.

Lewis didn't beat Evander Holyfield as convincingly on November 13 as he did on March 13, when he only received a draw, but any kind of win over the legendary Holyfield counts for something. He became the first man to beat "The Real Deal" in a rematch, and, at this point, is the only opponent Holyfield has ever been unable to defeat. You may not approve of Lewis' cautious approach, but a lot of less apprehensive men have ended up staring at Holyfield from the canvas. Lewis fought the fight he needed to fight in order to win, and the judges saw it unanimously for the first undisputed heavyweight champ from England since Bob Fitzsimmons was dethroned over 100 years earlier.

Whether you like Lewis or not, the towering Brit gave boxing just what it needed to end the century: One champion atop the sport's premier division.

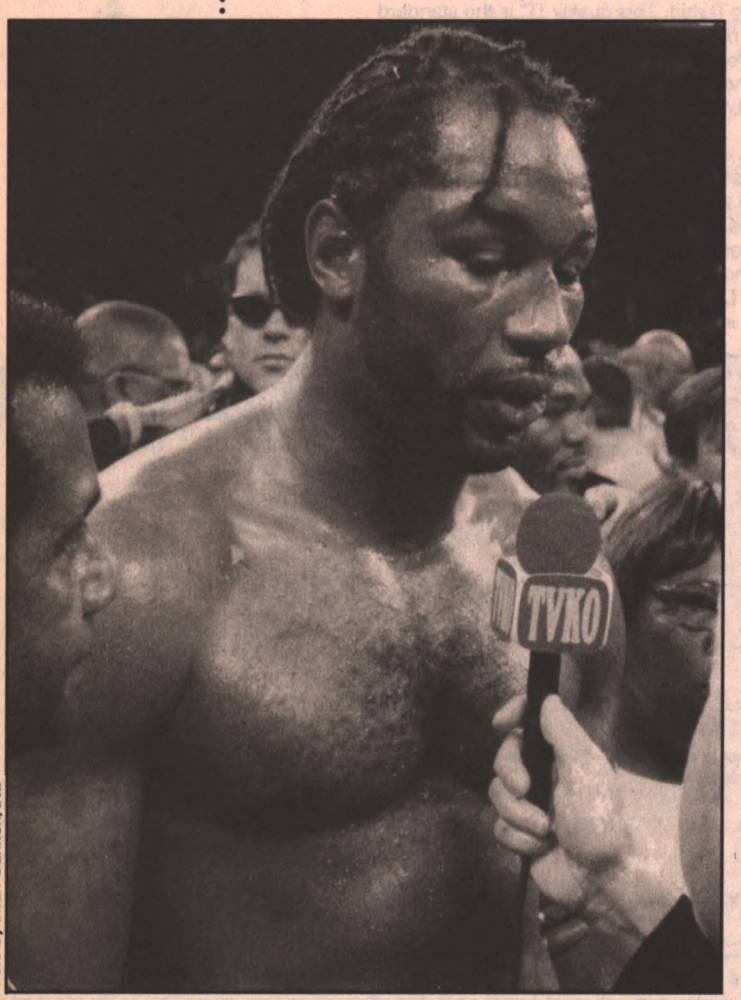


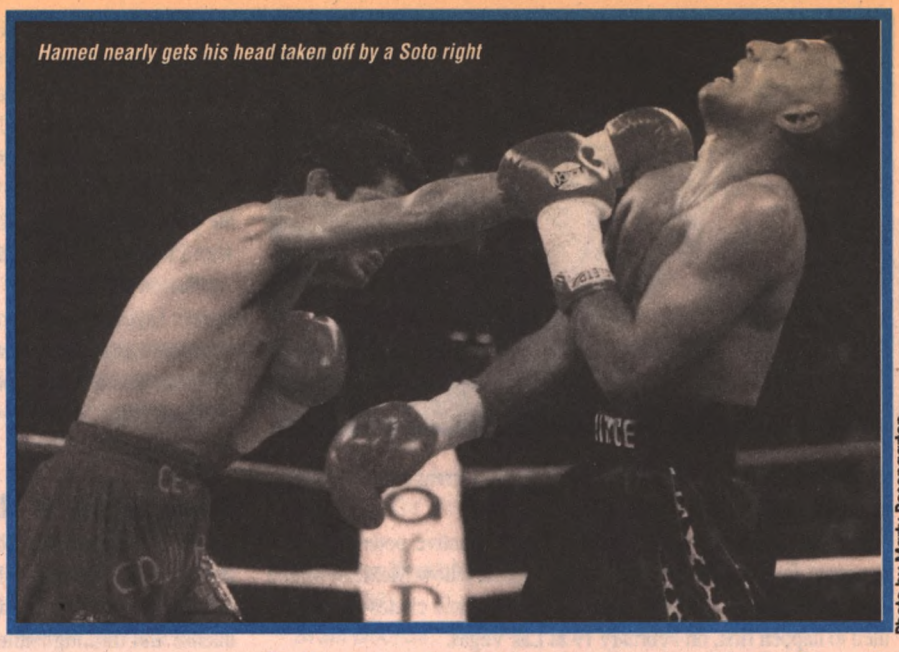
Photo by Brian Cannon/DKP

Lennox Lewis

Naseem Hamed W 12 Cesar Soto

Detroit, Michigan: The featured event in the Motor City's first championship fight card in 12 years deteriorated quickly into a foul-filled mockery before 12,000 at Joe Louis Arena. Hamed justly annexed the WBC featherweight title from Soto, who was attempting his first defense, but the fight was marred by constant pushing and holding, a bodyslam and three tackles by Hamed, repeated headbutts by Soto, a confrontation between cornermen, and three point deductions—two from Hamed, one from Soto.

Hamed and Soto were serial offenders at punching on the break. Michigan referee Dale Grable got criticized by both camps for his work in the fight, though it was a fight any ref would have had difficulty controlling.



Hamed nearly gets his head taken off by a Soto right

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

The most eventful portions of the bout weren't the cleanly landed punches, because there weren't many. Soto, 27, kept his chin tucked and rarely opened up, an approach that created few opportunities either way. Hamed, 25, spent much of the fight trying to bully Soto. The Arab-Brit resident of Sheffield, England, got a point deducted in the fourth round for refusing to release Soto from a headlock. In the fifth round, he had another point deducted when Soto, 126, missed a lunging left-right, draped himself over a ducking Hamed's shoulder, and was flipped onto his back by "The Prince." Hamed trainer Emanuel Steward and Soto trainer Miguel Diaz had to be separated at mid-ring after the fifth round.

Hamed, 33-0 (29), tackled Soto, 53-8-2 (39), in the sixth, eighth, and 11th rounds. Moments after the eighth-round takedown, the Mexican challenger drew a point deduction for blatantly charging at Hamed, 126, with his head. All the deductions couldn't change the unanimous verdict for Hamed, with Mike Glienna (USA) and Chuck Hassett (USA) scoring 115-110, and Dario Chiarino (USA) seeing it 116-108.

"He didn't want to fight," Hamed said. "He wanted to use his experience, and his dirty tactics, and his head—and I mean his head, not in the way you're thinking of, but trying to butt me—to survive."

"He's not a champion," Soto declared. "A champion fights like a real fighter. He tried to fleece the public. I don't know why HBO supports Hamed. He's no champion."

Soto's promoter, Bob Arum, said the fight made him vomit, while Hamed's promoter, Barry Hearn, pointed the finger at Soto.

"It was a dirty fight," said Hearn. "But you have to remember, you can only fight what's in front of you. Cesar Soto didn't come to fight. He came to spoil. He came to foul. He came to drag Naseem down to his level, and he nearly succeeded."

Television: HBO

Promoters: Cedric Kushner Productions, Prince Promotions, and Top Rank

(10-22-99)

David Mayo

Erik Morales W 12 Wayne McCullough

Detroit, Michigan: A sizzling co-feature on the Hamed-Soto card wowed spectators who hadn't seen a world championship fight in Detroit since Thomas Hearns won the WBC light heavyweight title from Dennis Andries on March 7, 1987. "The Hit Man" himself was among the appreciative throng who watched Morales and McCullough engage in a compelling test of durability and desire.

McCullough became the first person to last the distance in a world title fight with WBC super bantamweight champion Morales, 35-0 (28). That wasn't because the champion from Mexico didn't land his best shots; rather, it was because Irishman McCullough, 23-3 (14), kept absorbing them, further proving the great chin that allowed him to last the distance with Hamed as well.

"I was born with a hard head—maybe a little too hard," said McCullough, a former WBC bantamweight champion who also failed in a previous bid for this title in 1997, a decision loss to Daniel Zaragoza eight months before Zaragoza lost the title to Morales. McCullough's head wasn't hard enough that he failed to comprehend where his career has gone. "I'm 29 years old," he said, "and I keep getting the short end of the stick. It seems like I'm always fighting the HBO guy, or the up-and-coming guy."

In this case, the 23-year-old Morales, 122, represented boxing's future. With eight championship defenses now since winning the title in September '97, Morales has proven to be that rare fighter whose knockout power carries deep into the fight. He stopped Zaragoza in the 11th round and Juan Carlos Ramirez in nine, and even as McCullough engaged him in toe-to-toe warfare for virtually the entire 12 rounds, Morales' power, though not enough to take out the rugged challenger, was the clear deciding factor against McCullough's high-output attack. McCullough, 129¼, only seemed to win the 10th round clearly, though a handful of other rounds could have gone either way. In the end, judges Glenn Hirsch (USA), John Keane (England), and Omar Mintun (Mexico) all scored it 118-110 for the champion (the scores of 118-110, 116-112, and 116-112, initially announced by Michael Buffer, were inaccurate).

"I have the heart of a lion, the heart of a Mexican," Morales

Morales' fearsome attack couldn't discourage iron-chinned McCullough

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

said. "Wayne has a huge heart. He put up a great fight. But I am always a warrior."

Morales emerged as perhaps the most attractive potential future opponent for Hamed, although a fight against fellow Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera—a gigantic attraction in Hispanic circles—is scheduled to happen first, on February 19 in Las Vegas.

The referee was Frank Garza (USA).

Television: HBO

Promoters: Cedric Kushner Productions, Top Rank, and America Presents

(10-22-99)

David Mayo

Hideki Todaka W 12 Akihiko Nago

Tokyo, Japan: Rugged champion Todaka, 115, made his first defense of the WBA super flyweight title a successful one, as he maintained the pressure on previously unbeaten lefty Nago, 115, and dominated the proceedings with his aggressiveness to win a unanimous decision. Some 7,000 fans were in attendance to witness the 10th world title bout between Japanese compatriots.

The 23-year-old Nago was regarded as a prefight favorite for several reasons: He was considered the superior powerpuncher; he is managed and trained by ex-WBA junior fly champ Yoko Gushiken, who is very well regarded in Japanese fight circles; and this title bout took place on Nago's home turf, Tokyo, while the champ hails from Nagoya. But Todaka, 26, who dethroned Venezuelan Jesus "Kiki" Rojas on July 31, proved he was much tougher and more experienced than the nervous golden boy. Todaka's constant pressure made Nago uncomfortable, and the challenger's vaunted southpaw lefts often missed the target, hitting only the air. It was really a disappointing showing by Nago.

Todaka initiated his persistent attack in the opening canto, throwing good straight rights at the backpedaling lefty. The pugnacious champ seemed to be in command of almost every round in the first half of the fight. Nago was forced to retreat to avert Todaka's busy combinations, and the nervous southpaw repeatedly grabbed the champ to keep him from punching inside. Referee Armando Garcia (USA) gave Nago several warnings for clinching and holding, but no points were taken away.

Nago seemed to win the seventh, 10th, and 12th rounds by landing strong roundhouse counter right hooks. But those few spurts were not nearly enough to overcome the activity of the champion. Todaka had Nago's lefty style almost perfectly solved, and his effective rights and bodyshots weakened Gushiken's pupil throughout the contest.

All three judges had it for Todaka, although the margins were surprisingly close: Duane Ford (USA) had it 115-113, Fernando Viso (Venezuela) saw it 116-113, and Francisco Sandoval (Venezuela) scored it 116-114. THE RING had Todaka winning easily, 117-111.

"I intended to hit three times for every one I received from Nago," the jubilant Todaka, 16-2-1 (7), said. "I controlled the fight all the way. I fought as my trainer, Mack Kurihara, instructed."

The crestfallen Nago, 15-1 (11), apologized for his poor performance, saying, "I was cool, but couldn't find openings. I knew I had to be more aggressive to win."

Promoters: Midori Promotions, Teiken Promotions

(11-7-99)

Joe Koizumi

Paul Ingle W 12 Manuel Medina

Hull, England: With four knockdowns, fluctuating fortunes, and a dramatic final round in which the winner was floored and had blood seeping down his face, Ingle and Medina produced one of the most intense and thrilling battles of the year at the Hull Arena. Unable to put Medina away when he had him down twice in the second round, Ingle grimly survived a committed rally by the Mexican in subsequent rounds—especially the last—to claim the IBF featherweight title.

Ingle's brave performance against Naseem Hamed last April, extending the main man in the division to the 11th round and to the brink of defeat, propelled the 27-year-old into the limelight and straight into a title challenge of Medina, 56-11 (25). The incentive for the winner was a rematch with Hamed, Medina having also fallen victim to the now-WBC champion in 11 rounds three years ago. Engaging in his 67th fight, Medina may be an old 28, but he pushed Ingle all the way, throwing a staggering 1106 punches to his opponent's 943, but landing only 266 compared to 408.

A right hand-left hook combination sent Medina, 125¾, down in the second for a count of eight. Groggy and clearly distressed, another left hook had him down again. Ingle, 126, was on the verge of an early stoppage victory when the bell intervened. And with it, he lost the initiative to the extent that Medina came back forcefully into the fight.

The punch rate from both fighters never eased through the middle rounds. An accidental clash of heads forced a cut on the left side of Ingle's head in the fifth and, with blood flowing onto his cheek, he

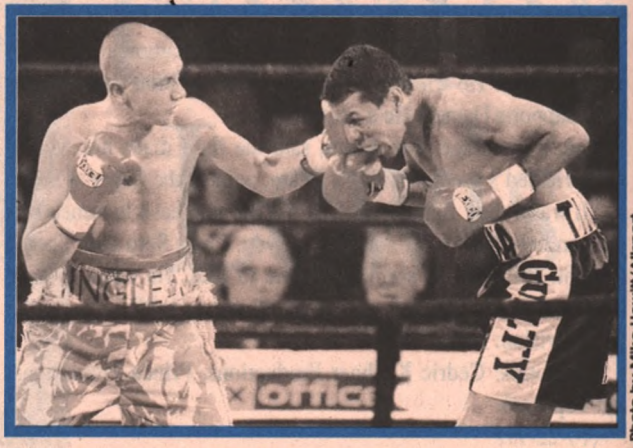


Photo by Mike Hewitt/Allsport

Ingle lands a clean left on his way to dethroning Medina

sustained a hard left in the face, Medina's best punch of the fight. Stunned, Ingle regained momentum and, by the ninth, was in such control that a tired Medina was almost pulled out by his corner before manager Ignacio Huizar intervened.

It seemed an academic point when a right that split Medina's guard sent him crashing onto the seat of his pants and against the ropes in round 10. But Medina summoned remarkable reserves of courage to claw his way back. And in an enthralling final three minutes, he almost made his second defense of his third world title reign a miraculous success.

Ingle wilted badly, blood pouring down his face from a cut near his eye and the laceration on his scalp. He raised his arms as the crowd roared him home, but it was more an act of desperation than exultation. He was almost completely spent. A right hand with half-a-minute remaining put him down, and a Jake LaMotta-Laurent Dauthuille-style finish seemed possible. Ingle, however, steeled himself and made it to the bell to secure a unanimous decision victory.

Judge James Bagshaw (USA) scored it far too wide at 118-107, while Manuel Maritxalar (Spain) had it 114-110 and Remigio Ruggeri (Italy) saw it 113-111. THE RING scored 114-111 for Ingle.

"I want Naseem Hamed again," cried Ingle, 22-1 (15). "I'm confident that next time I could take him." The new IBF champ may well get his shot, but first it appears he'll have to go through veteran Kevin Kelley sometime early in 2000.

Promoter: Panix Promotions
(11-13-99)
Brian Doogan

Markus Beyer W 12 Richie Woodhall

Telford, England: Blood splattered across his battle-weary face, Woodhall, 167¾, England, blew his immediate chances of a money-spinning unification bout with fellow Brit Joe Calzaghe as he lost the WBC super middleweight title to Beyer, 166¾, Germany, despite a performance of bravery and defiance. It was his third defense.

Woodhall, 25-2 (15), champion for 19 months since deposing South African veteran Sugarboy Malinga, found himself on the canvas three times in the opening three rounds. He recovered well, but finished with a broken nose and red-raw eyebrows and dropped a unanimous points verdict. His inactivity, self-inflicted after a pay dispute with promoter Frank Warren, was unmistakably a factor and one he immediately pointed to after only his second professional defeat.

"I was beaten by the better man," Woodhall, 31, admitted candidly. "He was too quick for me. I've been out of the ring since February, which is too long. I was rusty, and it cost me the title. You need to keep busy, but I'm not making excuses. Winners are the only people that matter in this game."

The accuracy and power demonstrated early on by Beyer did not help Woodhall's cause, either. Beyer's left hand proved particularly potent, deploying it as he did to devastating effect within 38 seconds of the first bell to knock Woodhall down. It was a stunning blow for the hometown fighter and his 2,500 fans who crammed into the Telford Ice Rink. Thereafter, Beyer, 17-0 (6), rarely missed with his southpaw lead, constantly drawing Woodhall's southpaw lead and invariably making him miss before countering incisively.

Woodhall appeared to have recovered from that early blow by the second round, responding well and gaining some foothold. But he was shaken badly again in the third when he was knocked down twice by a series of hard punches and wound up toppling over the bottom rope only for referee Laurence Cole (USA) to rule it a push. Woodhall was saved by the bell, but his hold on the title was loosening fast.

Woodhall had said he had seen an area of Beyer's defense that he was ready to exploit, having watched endless hours of the German on video. But even as the rounds progressed, he was rarely given the chance. He bravely rallied to put Beyer, 28, under some pressure in the closing rounds, especially the last, but by then it was much too late.

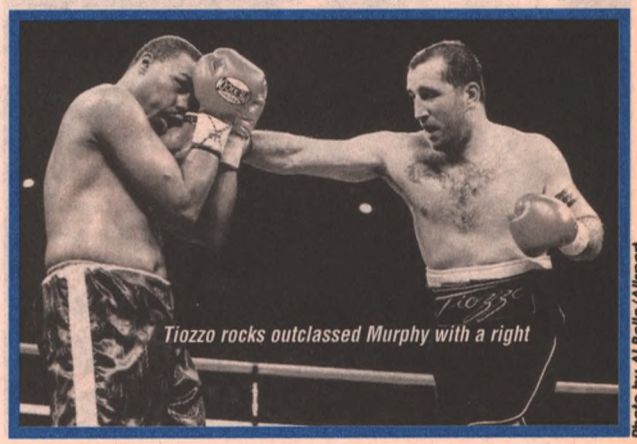
Pedraig Aleksic (Yugoslavia) scored it 114-113, Martin Pasamar (Spain) had it 115-113, and Sergio Silvi (Italy) saw it 115-111, all for Beyer. THE RING scored 115-112 for the new champion.

Promoter: Frank Warren
(10-23-99)
Brian Doogan

Fabrice Tiozzo KO 7 Ken Murphy

Las Vegas, Nevada: WBA cruiserweight champion Tiozzo didn't look the least bit rusty in his return from an injury-induced 364-day layoff—but then, not too many people would look rusty in a mismatch of this order. WBA 10th-ranked contender Murphy gave his all, but the chunky 36-year-old just doesn't have world-class skills, and the result was a brutal drubbing that went on until referee Joe Cortez (USA) waved the fight off after the seventh round. It was Tiozzo's third defense of the WBA crown and the chief supporting bout beneath the Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield rematch at the Thomas & Mack Center.

After a battle of jabs for the first minute, Tiozzo, 189½, started opening up, and had Murphy, 188, backing up under a steady stream of hooks to the body and head by round's end. Murphy's legs looked wobbly as early as the second round, though he never stopped firing back. A five-punch combination by the 30-year-old Tiozzo in the fourth still didn't discourage the challenger from Chicago, Illinois, and he came back with a strong left-right combination to open the fifth. The action heated up when both men started winging bombs in round five, but Tiozzo still had the edge in the closest round of the contest, landing a pair of big right hands just before the bell.



Tiozzo rocks outclassed Murphy with a right

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

After a brutally one-sided sixth-round, Murphy was told by his corner that another three minutes were all they would give him. He would have been better off throwing in the towel right then and there. A right to the jaw by the champion from France finally sent Murphy to the canvas late in the seventh, and a vicious right-left-right combination just before the bell convinced Cortez to halt the bout after Murphy returned to his stool.

Murphy, 21-2-1 (15), was shut out on all official scorecards, but earned a $35,000 purse in return for the beating he took. Tiozzo, 39-1 (25), made $50,000, and presented a strong reminder that, despite impressive recent showings by younger champions Juan Carlos Gomez and Vassiliy Jirov, the Frenchman may still be tops in the world at 190 pounds.

Television: TVKO

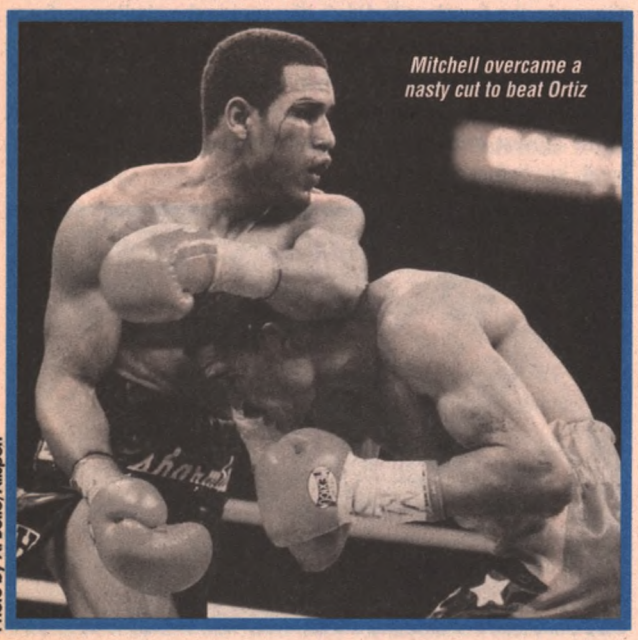
Promoters: Don King Productions, Ceasars Palace, Mandalay Bay (11-13-99)

Eric Raskin

Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Elio Ortiz

Las Vegas, Nevada: To look at WBA super lightweight champ Mitchell after his title defense against number-two rated challenger Ortiz at the Thomas & Mack Center, you would never have guessed what an easy fight it was. The 29-year-old champion from Takoma Park, Maryland, had a wide, deep cut above his right eyebrow and blood seeping from his lips, but most of that damage came as the result of Ortiz charging in head-first. In terms of the damage done with the fighters' fists, it was all Mitchell, and he captured a unanimous decision to retain the title for the third time.

The slick southpaw champ didn't waste any time getting started, as a quick left hand dropped Ortiz, 139½, on his rump just 15 seconds into the fight. Referee Richard Steele (USA) had barely started his count before Ortiz was up, but the gap on the scorecards was established, and it would only get wider. Though the 25-year-old Venezuelan challenger scored with his share of counters when Mitchell threw his wide, reckless hooks and crosses, he never landed any telling blows, and was soundly outboxed whenever Mitchell moved and jabbed.



Mitchell overcame a nasty cut to beat Ortiz

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Mitchell, 139½, drew an "ooh" from the crowd that was slowly filing in for the Lewis-Holyfield rematch when he landed a dynamic leaping left in the third. Mitchell did some of his best work in the fifth, as a short left followed by a crushing right wobbled the overmatched challenger. After suffering the nasty cut over the right eye from a head clash in the sixth, Mitchell slowed down briefly, but came alive in the eighth with an excellent flurry that Ortiz pinned in a neutral corner. Also in that round, Mitchell increased his lead when Ortiz lost a point for leading with his head.

Ortiz, 17-4 (13), had his best round in the 11th, when Mitchell began running, and the Venezuelan snapped his head back with a lunging right hand. But the champion finished the 12th with an outstanding eight-punch combination to the body and head to punctuate the victory. Somehow, judge Dave Moretti (USA) only gave Mitchell a 114-112 edge, but the other two judges, Jose Laurino (Uruguay) and Dalby Shirley (USA) were on the mark with scores of 119-109 and 118-108, respectively. Ortiz earned $10,000 for his effort, while the wounds Mitchell suffered were probably made more tolerable by his $100,000 paycheck, tops among the fighters on the undercard of the heavyweight unification rematch.

"The headbutts did not bother me at first," Mitchell, 46-2 (29), said afterward. "In the later rounds, I couldn't see out of one eye, but I didn't let that bother me. I'm a man, this is a war, and I couldn't let the stuff affect me. Don [King] does not give me easy fights."

Television: TVKO

Promoters: Don King Productions, Ceasars Palace, Mandalay Bay (11-13-99)

Eric Raskin

Gilbert Serrano KO 10 Stefano Zoff

Las Vegas, Nevada: After turning in one of the most pathetic performances ever by a world champion for the first four rounds, defending WBA lightweight titlist Zoff suffered a cut late in the fourth that triggered both the beginning and the end of his effort. Feeling the crimson flowing from above his right eye, Zoff finally started fighting against Venezuelan challenger Serrano, but when the cut became too much to bear early in the 10th, he threw in the towel, making the capable but unspectacular Serrano the fourth man to hold the WBA 135-pound belt in '99. The fight was part of the untelevised undercard of the Lewis-Holyfield heavyweight unification rematch at the Thomas & Mack Center.

Zoff, who was making his first defense of the title he'd won on an upset decision over Julien Lorcy three months earlier, fought the first 12 minutes looking more like a frightened child than a world champ, inexplicably circling, backing up, flinching every time Serrano considered throwing a punch, and keeping such a distance that nearly all of his own punches fell short. Serrano, 134, won the first three rounds just by moving forward, and then began catching up to Zoff in the fourth. The 29-year-old challenger banged a series of left hooks to the head and ribs, and started exacting a price with his head-snapping jab. Though it was unclear which punch caused it, the 33-year-old titlist from Italy finished the round with a sizable gash above his right eye.

The cut seemed to awaken Zoff, 133½, reminding him that he'd had the words "world" and "champ" tattooed on his two biceps for a

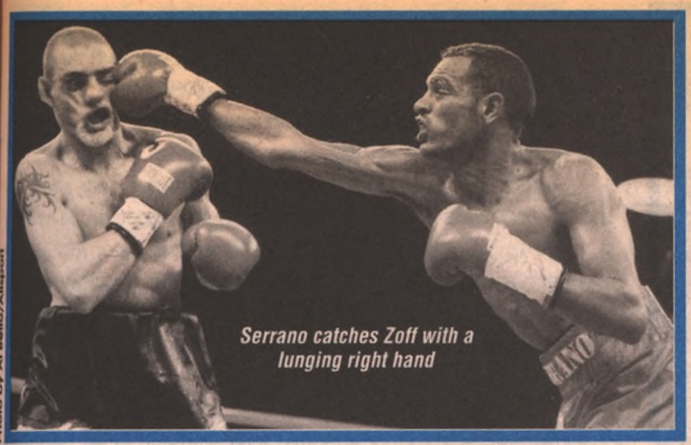


Photo by N. Bello/Action

Serrano catches Zoff with a lunging right hand

reason. He won the fifth by scoring with several hard hooks and a solid, chopping overhand right to Serrano's chin, and was winning the sixth until a late Serrano rally, which included several good bodyshots, stole the round. It became an inside war in the seventh and eighth, as the tiring competitors spent a lot of time leaning on each other and throwing shots that were landing with less and less steam.

Zoff, who earned $20,000, started pawing at his cut in the ninth, and Serrano, making $10,000, worsened the laceration with an excellent flurry in a neutral corner. When Zoff got caught with a right cross that scraped across the ugly, swollen right eye just seconds into the 10th, the champion turned his back and surrendered by waving his glove in the air. Referee Jay Nady (USA) didn't get the message, however, and called timeout for ringside physician Flip Homansky to inspect the gash before granting Zoff his wish and waving it over at the 31-second mark of the round. Serrano, who had failed in one previous title try against then-WBA 130-pound champ Yong Soo Choi in '98, raised his record to 18-4-2 (16), while Zoff fell to 29-7-2 (11) after his disappointing effort.

Promoters: Don King Productions, Caesars Palace, Mandalay Bay
(11-13-99)
Eric Raskin

Paulie Ayala W 12 Sahoiu Sithchai Condo

Fort Worth, Texas: After dethroning Johnny Tapia for the WBA bantamweight title with a brilliant performance back in June, Ayala certainly had a hard act to follow in his first title defense. But Ayala did not disappoint the estimated 6,000 hometown fans who turned up at the Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum, as he retained the crown by unanimous decision against Thailand's Condo in a brawl that was every bit as grueling and action-packed as Ayala-Tapia.

Ayala, a southpaw, could not have asked for a better opponent to look good against than his mandatory challenger. A tough but unpolished brawler, Condo was custom-made for the slick but feather-fisted Ayala to defeat in exciting fashion.

The pattern of the bout was established in the opening round when neither fighter bothered with the customary feeling-out formalities. Working behind a stinging right jab, Ayala, 29-1 (12), zeroed in with vicious combinations of hooks and uppercuts. Condo, 17-7 (12), responded with chopping overhand rights to the head and midsection that kept Ayala honest throughout the fight. A series of right hands penetrated Ayala's guard in the third round to bloody his nose and cause a welt to form under his left eye.

Usually a relentless pressure fighter, Ayala, 118, opted to let the challenger be the aggressor on this occasion. Utilizing his superior hand and foot speed, Ayala strategically dissected his oncoming opponent from the outside with right jabs and left crosses that landed with pinpoint accuracy. At opportune moments, he pounced on his flat-footed foe and unleashed rapid-fire barrages of right hooks and left uppercuts. Condo, though, simply refused to back off.

"I had a piece of the kitchen sink in my glove and that didn't even work. He's as tough as they come," Ayala, 29, said of his opponent who had occupied the WBA's number-one spot for over a year. "Now I know why Johnny [Tapia] and [Nana] Konadu avoided him."

What Condo, 117, lacked in finesse, he made up for in sheer guts and tenacity. Beaten to the punch and outlanded by approximately a 3-1 rate, the Thai challenger nevertheless remained dangerous throughout with his bludgeoning right. Each time he found himself on the receiving end of an Ayala flurry, he rocked the champion back with a big right hand.

Aware that he needed a knockout, the 26-year-old Condo, who earned $40,000 for his efforts, came out for the 11th round launching wild haymakers designed to decapitate, but like a matador, Ayala, who received $120,000, sidestepped the violent charges and escaped the blitzkrieg with minimal damage. Comfortably ahead on points, Ayala cruised in the final round, but managed to sneak in a few hard lefts to the face for good measure.

Judges Jack Woodruff (USA) and James Cole (USA) scored the fight 118-110, while Oscar Perez (USA) scored it 117-111, all for Ayala. THE RING had Ayala winning by 118-111.

Television: Univision
Promoter: Top Rank
(10-23-99)
Peter Lim

Yeosam Choi W 12 Saman Sorjaturong

Seoul, Korea: The long reign of WBC light flyweight champ Sorjaturong came to a somewhat unexpected conclusion before a crowd of approximately 1,000 at the Olympic Gym. Pugnacious Korean Choi, the WBC's number-one contender, captured the 108-pound title by battering the inexplicably defensive Thailander for the first nine rounds, piling up points comfortably, and weathering the champ's retaliations in the last three sessions to score a unanimous decision over 12.

Sorjaturong, making his 11th defense since his upset win over Chiquita Gonzalez in '95, didn't show his usual zip at all—possibly due to his severe reduction of weight or his inactivity. His previous fight came against Mexican Ladislao Vazquez in November '98.

Choi, 27, ignited the fireworks in the opening session, throwing fast combinations at the cautious champ. In the closing seconds of the round, Choi, 108, scored with a looping left hook that stunned Sorjaturong. The second round saw Choi aggressively force the Thai fighter to the ropes with a fusillade of punches, prompting one judge to give the challenger a 10-8 round.

Sorjaturong, 30, looked sluggish and negative all the way, falling another point behind in every round. The only positive move

Choi celebrates upset win over Sorjaturong

Sorjaturong, 108, made on the scorecards came when the shorter Choi had a point deducted by referee Jose Medina (Mexico) for leading with his head in the fifth.

In the sixth, Choi shifted his target toward Sorjaturong's breadbasket and doubled the champ over with his effective bodyshots. Sorjaturong became a bit aggressive for the first time in the fight in the seventh, but Choi cleverly outboxed him and counterpunched the wild-swinging Thai. In the eighth, Sorjaturong's weak legs showed when he slipped to the canvas twice. Choi turned loose in the ninth, throwing enough fast combos to make the round completely one-sided and earn 10-8 scores from two judges.

Sorjaturong, 41-3-1 (32), who has never been short on pride and guts, minimized the humiliation by desperately going forward with wild, though inaccurate, punches in the 10th. Choi changed his strategy, and began to fight with his guard tight to avoid a chance of a come-from-behind knockout defeat. Circling and jabbing calmly, Choi, 21-1 (10), defended himself from Sorjaturong's last surge, though he allowed the champ to sweep the final rounds.

When the fight was over, the result was very obvious, and the Korean fans knew immediately that a new champ was born. Tony Perez (USA) had it 116-111, Takeaki Kanaya (Japan) saw it 116-110, and Herbert Minn (USA) scored it 116-108, all in favor of Choi.

Promoter: Sungmin Promotions

(10-17-99)

Joe Koizumi

Jongkwon Baek W 12 Lakva Sim

Pusan, South Korea: Unbeaten Korean Baek, 130, wrested the WBA super featherweight belt from Sim, 130, Mongolia, as he survived a visit to the deck in the 10th, fought back hard, and was awarded a split verdict over 12 heats.

Some 7,000 fans were in attendance at Kudok Gymnasium in hopes of seeing countryman Baek capture the crown. But they knew that Sim would be a formidable opponent for Baek to conquer, having dethroned Japan's Takanori Hatakeyama on a spectacular fifth-round stoppage in Tokyo four months earlier.

Baek, a former 135-pound champ of the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) moving down to the junior lightweight division, clearly appeared to be the bigger man and took to the offensive in the first session. Sim, 28, mostly covered up in round one, but did score with a solid left hook that knocked Baek, 27, off-balance.

Sim became the aggressor in the third, as he whipped the Korean with sharp shots to the face and belly. The fourth round was packed with furious action, as Baek was more aggressive, but Sim occasionally forced him to the ropes with flurries of punches.

In the fifth, the Mongolian champ came forward with good jabs and precise combos, sending Baek to the ropes repeatedly. The sixth saw Sim launch a vicious uppercut, but it couldn't stop Baek from retaliating with non-stop blows. Encouraged by his cornermen, Baek turned loose and put on a persistent attack in the seventh. The situation worsened for the champion in the eighth when referee Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) had to penalize him a point for throwing an elbow, an offense he'd been warned for several times.

Down the stretch, Baek appeared a bit tired due to his busy pace in the earlier rounds, but his partisan fans hotly encouraged him to go on. Sim scored the sole knockdown of the fight in the 10th, when he caught Baek with a short but well-timed left hook to drop him on the seat of his pants. Baek quickly pulled himself up and went back to work, knowing the fight was close.

In the 11th, Baek utilized his footwork and kept circling around, while Sim, visibly fatiguing, maintained the pressure. Baek, 21-0 (18), attempted to seal the win with a barrage of punches in the 12th and final session, but Sim, 11-2-1 (9), countered him with a short right and had him reeling to the ropes as the battle concluded.

When the split decision was rendered to Baek—by scores of 114-113 by Derek Milham (Australia), 116-113 by Ferdinando Estrella (Philippines), and 112-115 by Chalerm Prayadsab (Thailand)—he was raised joyously by his fanatic cornermen. Sim, on the contrary, showed his displeasure with the verdict and sat in protest in the center of the ring for 10 minutes, until he was assured a rematch by the promoter and the WBA's representatives.

Promoter: Madam Shim's Sungmin Promotions

(10-31-99)

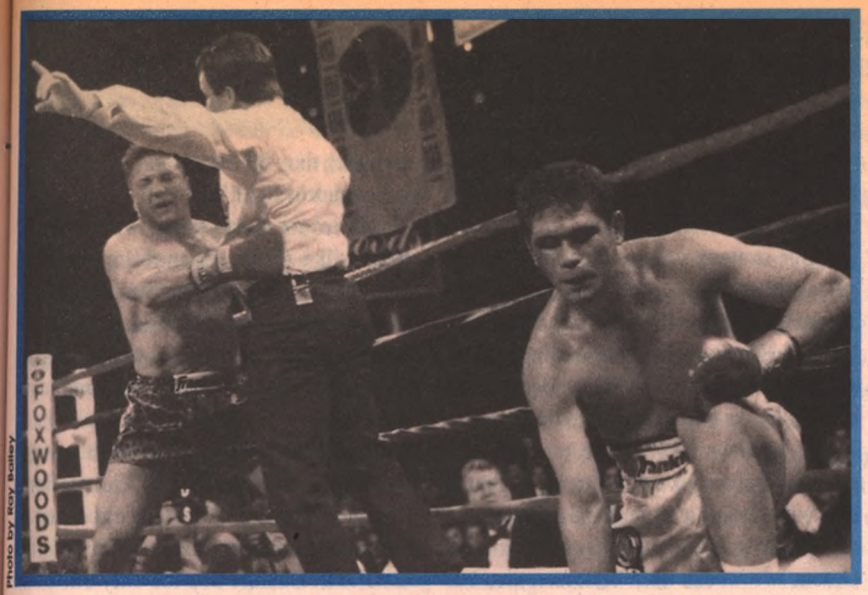
Joe Koizumi

Dana Rosenblatt W 12 Vinny Pazienza

Ledyard, Connecticut: This time the matador conquered the bull. All of the bull.

Rosenblatt, 166, Malden, Massachusetts, erased his only career loss with a 12-round split decision over Pazienza, 166, Cranston, Rhode Island, at Foxwoods Casino. Rosenblatt, 36-1 (24), notched the win despite being downed in the third round and cut over both eyes by the end of the fight. But the outcome was not without controversy. Judges Andrew Macy (USA) and Rocky Young (USA) scored it for Rosenblatt by tallies of 115-113 and 114-113, respectively, while George Young (USA) tabbed it 115-112 for Pazienza. THE RING scorecard also had it 115-112 Pazienza, and a majority of the ringside press had the two-division former champ winning narrowly.

But after enduring three years of soul-searching and some of the sport's most overheated verbal abuse, Rosenblatt finally achieved vindication for the August 23, 1996, Atlantic City bout when Pazienza knocked him out. Much of the prefight hype stemmed from that bout, and it set new standards for trash talk. The press conference for this bout featured Paz railing at Rosenblatt for his condescending attitude. Paz even laughed at the southpaw's supposed intellect, noting that he had the same "community college degree."



Rosenblatt rebounded from this third-round knockdown to outpoint Pazienza

With many expecting an instant replay of the first match, Rosenblatt won a moral victory simply by going 12 rounds. And he showed that, even if you found his studied choirboy image a bit much, there's ample grit under that apple pie exterior. The ironic thing is that the wild hoopla before the bout may have been Pazienza's undoing. Hubris defeated him as much as Rosenblatt did. Anything less than another spectacular knockout was not enough, and as it turned out, Paz was unable to deliver for a good reason.

"I broke my right hand in training three weeks ago," Pazienza told reporters immediately after the final bell. "My right hand was killing me all night—it's not an excuse, 'cause I beat him anyway. I didn't want to postpone it, that was never a question, so we shot it up with Novocaine, and I just sucked it up. I thought I won a close decision."

By going into battle with a busted paw, Pazienza was guilty of an absurd lack of respect for his foe. The prefight hoopla brought in a crowd of about 3,800 fans, but whether they came believing Paz, 36, was an over-the-hill, low-class loudmouth, or Rosenblatt, 27, was an untested, sanctimonious fraud, no one figured either would be vainglorious enough to step into the ring one-handed.

Pazienza, 46-8 (29), swarmed all over Rosenblatt in the opening round. The Rosenblatt jab began giving Paz problems in round two, though. In the third, Pazienza answered the bell with a headlong charge, and Rosenblatt fell in his own corner from what was ruled a slip. Later, as Rosenblatt retreated under a wild Paz attack, a thunderous left hook to the liver had a delayed effect. Rosenblatt backed into the ropes and melted to the canvas. Rosenblatt arose wobbly, but the bell rang seconds later, and the best Paz chance was gone.

Rosenblatt was leaking blood from his right eyebrow after that third round, but cutman Al Gavin did a masterful job on it. Early in the fourth, Paz backed out of a clinch with an enraged yell, dripping blood from his right eyebrow, and referee Arthur Mercante Jr. (USA) later told ringsiders it had been from an elbow. In the sixth, Paz presented his customary Willie Pep round, where he makes the opponent look silly by ducking and dodging everything; it was entertaining, but Rosenblatt stole the round.

Pazienza had a big 11th round, chasing Rosenblatt and scoring with several big windmill punches. But when he tried to duplicate it in the 12th, the disciplined Rosenblatt stopped him in his tracks with precise counters and won the round on all scorecards.

The Pazienza camp talked immediately of a rematch, but don't hold your breath. "[Matchmaker] Ron Katz verbally assured me he'd take care of arranging a rematch," said promoter Jimmy Burchfield. "They should, because we gave them the shot when we didn't have to." That's true, but it's also true that Rosenblatt has revived his career after some lackluster outings. With guys like IBF middleweight king Bernard Hopkins, for one, eager for high-profile, big-money foes, the Massachusetts lefty will likely go for a title shot rather than a rubber match with Paz.

Television: ESPN2

(11-5-99)

Jay N. Miller

Noel Arambulet W 12 Joma Gamboa

Caracas, Venezuela: Fast-moving Venezuelan Arambulet, 104¼, acquired the vacant WBA minimumweight title by making good use of his footwork, dancing all night to outleg and outmaneuver hard-hitting Filipino Gamboa, 104½, for a unanimous decision over 12.

This 105-pound title was previously held by Ricardo Lopez, but the WBA finally decided to make him renounce it when the unbeaten Mexican announced he was to challenge IBF 108-pound champ Will Grigsby on October 2. A bout for the vacant belt was originally scheduled between number-one ranked WBA contender Jose Garcia of Colombia and number-three rated Arambulet in the main event of the WBA's annual "KO Drugs" event in Caracas. But Garcia, who had already earned a split nod over Arambulet just six months earlier, suffered an injury and had to pull out three weeks before the fight, so the fifth-ranked Gamboa agreed to fill in.

It was a Tom-and-Jerry fight, with Arambulet trotting and Gamboa chasing. The Venezuelan's superb footwork turned the contest into more of a marathon race than a fight, but in spite of the non-aggressive strategy, Arambulet was a clear winner. He was smart not to trade with Gamboa, 26-4-1 (19), probably the world's hardest-punching 105-pounder.

But Gamboa was so anxious to catch the negative dancer with a single knockout blow that he failed to keep busy enough to win rounds along the way. The fleet-footed Arambulet occasionally rained powder-puff punches on Gamboa's gloves and immediately ran away to avoid retaliation. The Venezuelan wasn't landing cleanly, but he was piling up points steadily.

The eighth saw Gamboa turn more aggressive, sometimes pinning his opponent to the ropes with strong but inaccurate combinations. Another round Gamboa took was the 12th and final round, when Arambulet cautiously kept moving to-and-fro and side-to-side to avert a possible kayo. Judges Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico) and Tommy Thomas (Trinidad & Tobago) both had it 117-111, and Uriel Aguilera (Colombia) scored the fight 118-110, all for Arambulet, 11-1-1 (8) with 1 no-contest.

(10-9-99)

Joe Koizumi ■

Derrick Jefferson

(Continued from page 37)

"I felt I had something to prove, and that whether I won or lost, people would have respect for me," Jefferson said. "Winning is always important, but I went into the Harris fight with the approach that I was going to let it all hang out and give people their money's worth. Whether I won or lost, I was fighting more for respect than the victory. Harris didn't respect me coming into the bout.

"There's one thing about me and that is that I never fight the same fight twice. I just do what it takes to win. Some guys like to live off their jabs, guys like Tua will live off their hooks, but with me, I want to do the unexpected. I didn't think people thought I was going to come out and brawl, because I didn't think I was going to come out and do it. I'm not going to be macho about it; I had some doubt whether or not I could beat Harris. I knew he could box and move."

Jefferson prides himself on his boxing skills, though they were not too evident against Harris. He benefited from the unexpected, which included a left hook that suddenly had the impact of a wrecking ball. It was unexpected because his outpunch is normally his overhand right.

"Maurice Harris brought out the left hook in me," Jefferson said laughing.

Before the fight, Jefferson did not have much time to prepare for Harris. Under the impression he was going to fight the larger, less-mobile Whitaker, Jefferson had his training interrupted three-quarters of the way through to adjust to a completely different opponent. Two weeks before the fight, Jefferson found out Whitaker had backed out due to a knee injury and was going to be replaced by the much quicker Harris. So Jefferson changed sparring partners and received help from heavyweight contender Chris Byrd, a slippery boxer who specializes in defensive tactics.

"We had real sparring this time, which was one of the things we didn't have in the past," said Claude Strickland, Jefferson's trainer since the fighter's amateur days. "With Chris Byrd, you need to throw a bag of rice at him to hit him. But once we started throwing rice at him, we knew we could hit Maurice Harris. We saw Maurice a few times before and we respected him. We feel as though he's a world-class fighter. But he wasn't looking at reality. He felt that we weren't in his league.

"Our strategy was to attack Harris and get on him fast, and to use our weight advantage and try to wear him down. We knew if Harris ever started trading punches, he couldn't win the fight. Derrick did everything we expected him to do."

Jefferson's next move is anyone's guess. DiBella spoke about trying to match him with Grant, who remained undefeated as a pro by gutting out a win over Andrew Golota two weeks later. Jefferson also has the distinction of handing Grant his only loss ever, which came at the national Golden Gloves semifinals in 1995 in Jefferson's eighth fight. If it were up to Jefferson and his people, the fight would be made sometime in the spring of 2000, but first will come an HBO-televised bout with David Izon in January.

"Right now, we want to fight anyone in the top 10, but I know the way Derrick looked against Harris might scare some people away," Strickland said. "We prefer Michael Grant, and I think Grant is the guy that would command a big payday. There is a natural storyline there from their amateur days. The thing is, we haven't seen much of a change in Grant since his amateur days."

After beating Harris, life changed for Jefferson. People recognized him in local stores and congratulated him on his victory. Perhaps the most dramatic change, however, came when he stepped into Leftkosky's and got his first freebie in 15 years.

"It started to sink in that I really did something," Jefferson said. "Until then, I didn't really feel the magnitude of what I did. I'll never play it safe in the ring. I just try to keep things as entertaining as possible. You will never see *me* in a boring show. I don't really care about the winning or the losing, I just care about coming out of the ring with respect. After I'm out of the ring 20, 30 years from now, I want people to respect me as someone who was a good fighter."

An occasional free corned beef sandwich wouldn't hurt, either. ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 18)

to fight; they like to stand around. This kid comes to fight."

There are some areas where Turner would like to see Etienne improve. For one, the fighter relies too heavily on slipping and parrying to defend himself. The veteran trainer pointed out that The Black Rhino also needs to hold his hands up a little more.

It was a holdup of a different sort that led Etienne to the Dixon Correctional Institute. He was 17 years old when he committed the crime with four other assailants. Etienne was the only one of the five who did not have a previous criminal record. He was originally sentenced to 40 years, but was paroled in July '98.

Etienne's mistake occurred during a time when it seemed as if he had everything going for him. He played football and basketball, ran track, and wrestled in high school. He was such a good athlete, Texas A&M, LSU, and Oklahoma were considering recruiting him for football. He also had a solid foundation at home. His mother was a nurse, and his father worked for an oil company. Etienne always had good grades, but his judgment was lacking at that stage of his life, and he got caught up with the wrong crowd.

"I didn't have any street sense," Etienne recalled. "I wanted to belong. I thought it was a good thing that everyone looked up to me and had so much hope for me. My mom and dad always kept me a little sheltered, and when they started loosening the reigns, I just made bad decisions.

"Sometimes I'd like to pop myself in the head when I think back on it. I had a lot of good things around me, but I was always a cufious person. I found my trouble like I found my talent. They were friends; at least I thought they were friends. All of those guys were older than me. I was the only one in school, too. Some things happen for different reasons. I made mistakes, and I know that. But I know I wasn't born to stay in jail. My family being so close to me, they're the real reason why I was able to turn everything around."

Etienne had no interest in boxing prior to his stay in prison. Two years into his

sentence, however, he blew up to 290 pounds and grew very depressed. What got his mind right was thinking about his mother and father. He felt he was not only doing time, but his family was doing time, too—and he had only himself to blame. He converted to Islam while in prison, then befriended fellow inmate Paul Carter, who had boxed as an amateur.

The two talked boxing and conditioning, and eventually Etienne began sparring other inmates during recreational time. Boxing, Etienne discovered, was a great outlet for the frustration of being in prison, and he became thirsty for more knowledge about the Sweet Science.

One day, after being transferred to Angola State Prison, Etienne was talking with a friend, trying to think of a nickname that fit his fighting style. That's when the moniker Black Rhino sprung up. (Etienne had to look it up in the prison library to make sure that black rhinos really existed.)

"Boxing enabled me to get away from everything that was negative in prison," Etienne said. "No matter what anyone says, you have drugs and con artists in there. You can get into anything like you can on the streets, even in prison. I would get up in the morning and run, go to my college classes, work out in the gym. It helped me; I got discipline from this. I fought the other inmates, but I got so good, no one would fight me anymore."

So Etienne began travelling from prison to prison, competing against other inmates in what is called the Louisiana Boxing Association. That's how Billy Roth, a former pro who was officiating the prison bouts, discovered him. Roth in turn contacted Eddie Sapir, a New Orleans Councilman who was once the agent/adviser for former Super Bowl MVPs Doug Williams and Joe Namath, and the late Billy Martin.

Convinced Etienne was the goods, Sapir signed him, then got in touch with Les Bonano, a former chief deputy for the New Orleans Sheriff's Office, to be Etienne's co-adviser and promoter. By the end of 1998, they had The Black Rhino in the ring, fighting for money. He had an active 1999, fighting 10 times through November, and was looking for a bout in December at press time.

"These are learning fights for Cliff," said Grant, who was with Etienne in Houston, training for his own fight with Andrew Golota on November 20. "I saw him in the Morgan fight. If it showed anything, it showed he's aggressive. Personally, from speaking with him, it seems like he's eager to learn the game."

"Cliff really enjoys what he's doing," Bonano said. "I've never come across a guy who has as much enthusiasm as Cliff. What I like about him is that he puts pressure on you and throws punches all of the time. He's relentless; he doesn't let up."

Teddy Atlas, ESPN2's ringside boxing analyst, saw Etienne up close in his first-round knockout of Morgan, and came away fairly impressed, especially after hearing that Etienne did not have much amateur experience.

"He's physically strong, but more than that, I was very impressed with his technique and his fighter's instincts," Atlas said. "There's a difference between being physically strong and having good instincts in the ring. This guy has good fighter's instincts. Boxing isn't just about strength, but the ability to use it. Etienne has a long way to go. We'll find out more about him when he fights a better grade of guy, but for a guy who has a small amount of experience, he wasn't too bad. He looked like he had an idea of what he was doing. That means there might be a future."

Etienne is currently working toward a college degree in business management at Southern University. He has sophomore status, and when he walks around campus, he frequently gets asked if he plays football for the school because of his size. He took some time off from his arduous school schedule late last year while preparing for bouts. The academic demands coupled with boxing can be strenuous, but Etienne figures things could be a lot worse.

"I could be dead right now," Etienne said. "My total experience of going to prison has turned out to be 85- to 90-percent positive. In a sense, it made me grow up a lot and have respect for other people. It's given me a great outlook on life. People don't appreciate freedom until it's gone. It may sound strange being in prison for 10 years, but I feel I've been blessed. I feel I've been blessed my whole life." ■

Oleg Maskaev

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seeping out of him. Before the eighth round, Jackson, intent on making his prediction ring true, knew just how to trigger the spark within Maskaev's soul.

"He sat me down and said, 'Oleg, wake up! You're losing this fight!'" recalled Maskaev, who at that point was nursing a broken right thumb.

"That's all right. He's outta here," replied Maskaev.

The Russian expatriate arose from the stool for round eight and unleashed thunder upon the exhausted Rahman, who bobbed desperately along the ropes, seeking shelter from the power shower that was raining down on him. Finally, a soft jab, followed up by a flush right, acquainted Rahman, 31-2 (26), with the ringside patrons. It was a knockout so violent, so disturbing, the element of competition quickly became an afterthought.

Rahman's family and friends rushed toward the horizontal Rahman in sheer panic, knocking over anyone and everyone who stood in their way. The ringside brawl that escalated from the knockout never reached Golota-Bowe proportions, but it offered more solid blows than both Lewis-Holyfield fights and De La Hoya-Trinidad combined.

Jackson and his crew-cutted gladiator looked down upon the boisterous scene that played like a live episode of *Cops*. Maskaev, 18-2 (13), had come to America to make some noise, and that's precisely what he had just done.

"I remember thinking they were gonna come up and arrest us for murder," cracked Jackson.

Rahman, however, lived to see yet another day, as did Merchant and thousands of others who dismissed the latest overseas commodity as nothing more than a wannabe. And when the chaos subsided and the next morning came around, another of Jackson's bold predictions rang true.

Everybody was talking about Oleg Maskaev.

"I never had a doubt," said Jackson. "People didn't think it was going our way, but it was. It was all going just the way we wanted it to."

"We took our chances, and it paid off," said Maskaev. "Now everyone know what I can do. Now I know what I can do. I had to beat that guy to prove it to everybody."

The "everybody" that Maskaev speaks of, no doubt, includes those living halfway around the world, hoping someday that their lieutenant returns to the frozen tundra.

"No way," said Maskaev. "I'll go back to visit my family from time to time, but I'm here for good now. I'm an American now."

An American who knows a thing or two about risks and gambling and glimmering opportunity, an American whose dream is surely just getting underway. ■

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Main Events

(Continued from page 29)

in Totowa, New Jersey, not far from where he used to run small-time boxing shows at a place called Ice World, for the last time with his son Dino and daughter Donna in tow in early-November. The end of their involvement with Main Events had come with changed locks and angry words, a delayed repercussion of Dan Duva's unexpected death.

For a while after Duva's passing, things ran smoothly. Lou and partner Shelly Finkel, a former rock promoter whose financial resources were instrumental in the company's development, continued to manage some of the sport's biggest names, and Dino Duva continued to promote fighters like now-undisputed heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis, perhaps the world's best junior middleweight, Fernando Vargas, and old warhorse Pernell Whitaker. "Sweet Pea" helped the family start it all in 1984 when he became one of five Olympic medalists to sign with Main Events.

Within a few years after the 1984 Olympics, Whitaker, Evander Holyfield, Mark Breland, and Meldrick Taylor were all world champions, and Main Events was on the map. While Dan Duva, his wife, and his brother and sisters did the promoting, their father and Finkel managed a stable of fighters that was the envy of everyone in boxing.

But as their success grew, the business changed. No longer were they a simple family setting up chairs at Ice World and selling tickets on street corners around northern New Jersey. Now they were negotiating multimillion-dollar deals and long-term television contracts and dealing with the politics of boxing. When Dan Duva was unexpectedly felled at age 44 with a brain tumor, the seeds of a family feud that would eventually split them were sown.

Perhaps it was inevitable that conflict would arise between Duva's remaining son, who was named company president, but never seemed wholly comfortable in the job, and his sister-in-law and Main Events' attorney, Pat English. All three were trustees in charge of running a business that had been wholly owned by Dan Duva and his wife. Although Dan cut his siblings in on 60 percent of the profits, control of the stock was always his.

After his death, that control reverted to his wife, and when business problems developed over the last two years that threatened the company's future and brought into question her brother-in-law's management decisions, a split developed that was exacerbated by Dino's sudden decision to take a leave of absence last year under mysterious circumstances.

Boxing is the sport of whispers and dark corners, and it was never clear exactly what personal problems caused Duva to leave. But all sides agree that business was already suffering when he departed. What they don't agree on is who was at fault and how the problems should have been resolved.

"Nobody got thrown out," Kathy Duva insisted during a recent conversation in Las Vegas. "People decided to leave. People had employment contracts that were not renewed. It happens. I truly wanted it to work out, but it didn't."

Initially, Kathy distanced herself from the business' day-to-day operation after her husband's death, attending law school at Seton Hall and concentrating on raising her young children and building a new life. But she was still legally responsible for the trust that operated the business, and when financial problems hit that required her to invest several hundred thousand additional dollars to help keep Main Events afloat a year ago, she began to re-think the wisdom of allowing her husband's company and her children's future to be run by others, even if those others were blood relatives.

"It's sad, but it's like a divorce," she explained. "In the end, it will be for the best. The most important thing is Main Events is in the hands of its owner and will stay there.

"Leaving the business wasn't an option for me. Dan left the company in a trust, and I'm a trustee, so there was no way to get out of this. I'm responsible for it. I couldn't give it away.

"As a family, I adore all of them, but this is a business. You can love someone very much, but not be able to work with them. Over time, there was a lot of tension that developed and some problems, and there had to be some closure. It had to end. I'm satisfied this is the only way it could end. I know I tried other ways.

"It's a company now, not a person. It's like that song. There ain't no good guys. There ain't no bad guys. There's only you and me, and we just disagree. Clearly there are emotional ties that made this very difficult, but something had to be done. We still have a great company with a great staff and great fighters. We plan to make Main Events the force it used to be in boxing."

Perhaps so, but boxing is a world filled with cigar-chewing skeptics, and many wonder if they will ever again regain the momentum they once had. Under Dan Duva's direction, Main Events became a major force in a sport that had been dominated by Don King and Bob Arum for nearly 20 years, and they did it against long odds.

With Finkel and Lou Duva recruiting and signing young talent and Dan, his wife, and the rest of their family promoting them, they grew into a powerful position in the sport. But the promotional company Dan formed was always dominated solely by his presence. He was a short man who became a towering figure in boxing by his wits and the force of his sometimes gritty personality. What he built was a company he alone controlled.

Duva retained only 40 percent of the profits for himself, splitting the remainder between his brother and three sisters, but he always retained 100 percent of the voting stock. As the years passed and the money rolled in for all of them, so it seems, his siblings and his father began to feel like they had control of more than just those profits. They began to think they had a real stake in the company, not just a well-paying position in it.

Upon Dan's death in January of '96, Kathy agreed to follow her husband's wish-

es, and Dino was installed as company president, and for a time, all agree, things went well. But at some point, profits began to slip and deals were not closed. Dino made a decision to sign a group of Cuban fighters against the protests of others in the company, and some ugly backbiting and infighting ensued that, over time, took a toll on all that Main Events had been.

"We're a family," Lou Duva lamented. "We should have been able to work this out. I'm the family patriarch, but they took that right from me. Pat English took that right from me. This guy wants to take over boxing. He wants to take over Main Events. I said time and again English will end up with Main Events. I know I holler and all that, but I'm a family guy and this has been killing me.

"Sure, Dino made mistakes. Sure, there were meetings he didn't attend. He was in distress. I admit that. But it's not fair what's going on. He was there from the first chair we put down at Ice World. We were in the black for a lot of years. Now we had some problems, and they're buying out my family. Business-wise, we'll be fine, but on a personal level, I feel terrible. I got to get lawyers to talk to my own family."

Many in boxing claim that Kathy bent over backward to make Main Events work with Dino at the helm. Those aligned with Lou, Dino, and Donna, who now plan to start their own promotional and management company, argue otherwise. And so it goes when a family business turns into a family feud.

For most of 1999, talks went back and forth over which faction would take control, until a resolution finally came in November that allowed Kathy to buy out her relatives in a convoluted deal in which both sides agreed not to poach on certain fighters under contract to Main Events. Yet the settlement fell through at least once after it became public, and even today, Lou Duva snorts, "There may be some suits and legal entanglements involved in this."

Kathy hopes not, just as she hopes not to repeat either the mistakes of the past or the successes that may have helped breed them.

"When we were at the top in our business life was when we were most unhappy," she said. "You want to get there, but when you do it's horrible. For a day or two after Evander won the heavyweight title, we felt good, but then you realize everybody you talk to wants something. Every relationship seems tainted.

"That takes a lot of the fun out of your life if you pick up on those vibes. Suddenly you have everything to lose and not much more to win. We're in a business where you want to win, but I don't think I need to be where we were. I can see why maybe Gary wants that, but it's not necessarily what I want."

Kathy installed Shaw as the company's new chief operating officer as the final negotiations for the breakup moved with the speed of a glacier. It is a position that answers to English, Kathy, and no one else. Although Shaw has limited experience in the promotional end of the business, he is confident he can help return Main Events to the position it once held. What he's less convinced about is whether he can find a way to mend the broken fences between himself and his long-time friend, Dino—the man he replaced in the no-longer-family business.

"I've known the Duva family since Ice World," said Shaw, who was an inspector, chief inspector, and finally a member of the New Jersey Athletic Control Board for 10 years beginning in 1989. "No matter what, I'll always consider the Duvas my friends. Whatever animosity they have toward me for taking this job, I understand.

"Nobody wants to step into a position that had to be vacated because of a family squabble, but Kathy offered me an opportunity I thought was wonderful. I just hope time will cure all the heartache. The business is big enough for all of us.

"I know I'm not Dan Duva. I'll never be Dan Duva. He was a special guy with very special talents. I know I'm not considered the natural selection, but I hope one day to be thought of like Phil Simms. When the Giants drafted him, everyone said, 'Huh?' But when he was done, they were glad they had him."

That may well end up to be the case, but some close to the Duva clan accuse Shaw of double dealing, playing upon his relationships with Dino and Kathy to his own end. Shaw denies that, but one Duva clan member who asked for anonymity said, "He has no character. He played both ends. He'd be talking with Kathy and going to Dino's house. I can't believe they settled on him."

But they did, and now it falls to Shaw, English, and Kathy Duva to try to retain the services of a lineup of young fighters who had been growing anxious during the long internal battle.

Heavyweight contender Michael Grant refused to re-sign with Main Events in part because of the turmoil, and IBF number-one rated heavyweight David Tua is also exploring the possibility of moving on when his contract runs out.

Undefeated welterweight Vernon Forrest called ESPN2 commentator Teddy Atlas in November to inform him before a *Friday Night Fights* broadcast that he was leaving, only to learn his contract precluded a bailout. Rumors have swirled that junior welter prospect Zab Judah is one of a half-dozen young fighters being courted by rap music impresario James Prince, and no one knows for sure what will happen with Vargas, who is Main Events' crown jewel.

Yet Kathy Duva said she is unconcerned about those problems or about the possibility of a new competitor with a familiar old face entering the fray.

"Because world domination is not my goal, I hope they're very successful," she said. "There are enough fighters to go around. I think it's possible we can co-exist amiably … but maybe I'm just optimistic."

One of the problems that led so many fighters to consider other options was the uncertainty of exactly who was calling the shots when deals were being negotiated. Was it Dino, who mysteriously began failing to show up for serious negotiating sessions and disappearing without a trace at times, or was it English and Kathy, who Dino's allies claim repeatedly outvoted him?

Briefly, another Duva son-in-law, Mike Boorman, stepped in as chief operating officer to try and quell the roiling seas and, by all accounts, was doing a good job until he ran into conflict with Dino. Even Lou admits Boorman's authority to make deals was undermined several times when his son began making calls to various business associates claiming Boorman did not speak for Main Events. That situation led to Boorman's resignation.

"I spoke to Dino about that," Lou said. "I told him we couldn't have that. Mike was doing a good job, and he would have done a better job if he had the assurances that Kathy and Dino would let him do it right.

"If there had been no Pat English, I believe it could have worked out. I would have liked to see Mike in an arbitrary spot, but he left to become an English teacher, and

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BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine*, the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Plus, each issue contains a full-color centerfold. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

April 1982: Holmes vs. Cooney—The 20 Crucial Questions On The Biggest Fight In History. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Interview: Marvin Hagler. Also: Tony Ayala Jr., Baltazar brothers, Pedroza, Larry Hazzard, Joe Frazier.

March 1983: Sugar Ray Retires: An Era Comes To An End. Color Pinup: Jeff Chandler. Interview: Hilmer Kenty. Also: Don Curry, Pryor-Arguello I, Pedroza-Taylor, Roger Mayweather.

June 1983: WBA Jr. Middleweight Champion Davey Moore: Bracing For Duran's Last Stand. Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Pinklon Thomas. Also: Duran-Cuevas, Hagler-Sibson.

Aug. 1983: Michael Spinks: King Of The Light Heavyweights ... But The Glory Can't Erase The Sadness. Color Pinup: Johnny Bumphus. Interview: Jones & Rappaport. Also: Jones-McCrory, Pryor-Arguello II preview, world's best fighter poll, Jeff Chandler, Mark Breland, Leon Spinks.

Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Interview: Marvis Frazier. Also: Marvin Hagler, Bobby Chacon, Jack Dempsey.

Aug. 1984: WBC Heavyweight Champion Terrible Tim Witherspoon: A Superstar Of Tomorrow? Color Pinup: Rocky Lockridge. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Marvin Hagler, Gomez-LaPorte.

Oct. 1984: Golden Boy Mark Breland: Can He Be The Next Sugar Ray? Color Pinup: Jaime Garza. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Bramble-Mancini, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Nov. 1984: Thomas Hearns: "Hagler Is Shakin' Like A Leaf On A Tree!" Color Pinup: Tim Witherspoon. Interview: Livingstone Bramble. Also: Rosario-Davis, Marlon Starling.

Jan. 1985: The Wide-Open Heavyweight Division: Who Will Take Control? Color Pinup: Bill Costello. Interview: Tyrone Crawley. Also: Harry Arroyo, Curry-Pryor, Barry McGuigan.

Feb. 1985: Gerry Cooney: How Far Can He Go This Time? Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Ray Mancini. Also: Dream fights, Hector Camacho.

March 1985: Next For Marvelous Marvin Hagler: The Only Fight That Really Matters. Color pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza, Holmes-Bonecrusher.

May 1985: Thomas Hearns: KO Fighter Of The Year. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Camacho-Ramirez, Truth Williams, Year In Review.

July 1985: Aaron Pryor: Has Hawk Time Run Out? Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Greg Page. Also: Ray Mancini, James Shuler, Costello-Hatcher.

Aug. 1985: King Cobra: "Hagler-Hearns Is Done And I'm Better Than Both Of Them!" Color Pinup: John Mugabi. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran, DeWitt-Lee.

Dec. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "Larry Holmes Betrayed Boxing." Color Pinup: Hagler-Mugabi. Also: Mike McCallum, Tyrell Biggs, Camacho-Ramirez.

Jan. 1986: Macho Mania! Hector Camacho Takes Aim At 10 Tough Targets. Color Pinup: Jimmy Paul. Interview: Alexis Arguello. Also: Truth Williams, Curry-McCrory.

July 1986: Tyson, McGuigan, Hagler: The Stars Catch Fire And Boxing Is Hot Again! Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Camacho-Chavez.

Dec. 1986: Larry Holmes' Message To Mike Tyson: "Show Me You Can Kick My Butt!" Color pinup: Mark Breland. Interview: Holmes. Plus: Witherspoon-Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Cruz-McGuigan, Danny Lopez.

Feb. 1987: Upset Of The Decade: Has Honeyghan Cut Short The Curry Era? Color Pinup: Marvin Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho.

May 1987: Hagler vs. Leonard: Who Will Win And Why. Color Pinup: Edwin Rosario. Also: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Leonard-Hagler, Bobby Czyz, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1987: Bobby Czyz: Finally, His Accomplishments Match His Appeal. Color Pinup: Sugar Ray. Interview: Lloyd Honeyghan. Also: Mark Breland, Hector Camacho, Weekend Warriors.

Oct. 1987: Greatness Beckons: When Will Mike Tyson Answer The Call? Color Pinup: Michael Olajide. Interview: Tyrell Biggs. Also: Paz-Haugen, Marvin Hagler.

Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Frankie Duarte. Also: Matthew Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King-But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Interview: Barry McGuigan. Also: Aaron Pryor, Mike McCallum.

Jan. 1988: The Collapse Of A Hero: Why Breland Never Hit The Mark Of Greatness. Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Michael Nunn, Alexis Arguello, lightweights.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Tate-Olajide, ESPN Boxing.

May 1988: KO Exclusive-Mike Tyson, As Only Mike Tyson Knows Him. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Tyson-Spinks Poll, Michael Dokes, Virgil Hill.

July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks. Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Interview: Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Tyson-Spinks: KO's Fearless Forecast Of Superfight '88. Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Matthew Hilton. Also: Lockridge-Knight, Evander Holyfield, Lloyd Honeyghan.

Sept. 1988: Tyson-Spinks, The Aftermath—What If Tyson Wins; What If Spinks Wins? Color Pinup: Frank Tate. Interview: Marlon Starling. Also: Barry McGuigan, Simon Brown, risk-taking.

Oct. 1988: Middleweight Terrorism: Iran Bombs The Hit Man. Color Pinup: Don Lalonde. Interview: Frank Bruno. Also: Roger Mayweather, Marvin Hagler.

Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Interview: Gil Clancy. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Boxing's Champs.

Feb. 1989: George Foreman Is Born Again. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Bill Cayton. Also: The Olympics, Davey Hilton, John Mugabi, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams. Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

Nov. 1989: The Real Duran; The Stories Behind The Legend. Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Mike Trainer. Also: Edwin Rosario, Rosi-Van Horn.

Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multimillion-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

May 1990: Chavez vs. Taylor: The Best Matchup In The Last Five Years. Color Pinup: Daniel Zaragoza. Interview: Pernell Whitaker. Also: Leonard-Hearns, Glenn McCrory, Prince Charles Williams.

June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.

July 1990: KO Interview-Sugar Ray Leonard. Color Pinup: Jorge Paez. Also: Michael Nunn, Buster Douglas, Jibaro Perez, the Olympians.

Aug. 1990: Meldrick Taylor: Brilliance In Defeat. Color Pinup: Buster Douglas. Interview: Teddy Atlas. Also: Buddy McGirt, Dokes-Ruddock, Simon Brown.

Sept. 1990: KO Interview-Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, Best Fighter Poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive KO Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, Chavez.

July 1991: Riddick Bowe: Is He Destined To Be Heavyweight Champ? Color Pinup: Michael Carbajal. Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Bobby Czyz, Buster Douglas, Mark Breland.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson-The Only Heavyweight That Matters. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Interview: Troy Dorsey. Also: Fenech-Nelson, James Toney, lost art of bodypunching.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield-The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: KO Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Faceoffs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Jimmy Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Oct. 1992: The Olympics: Golden

Memories ... And Golden Futures? Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Genaro Hernandez, Terry Norris.

Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joey Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win and Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leeonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Dec. 1993: The KO Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, George Foreman, Yori Boy Campas , Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

Jan. 1994: Outrage At The Alamodome: "Sweet Pea" Shafted! Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Kennedy McKinney. Also: James Toney, book of lists, M.A. Barrera.

July 1994: The Upset Epidemic! Carbajal's Conqueror: Chiquita Gonzalez. Color Pinup: Junior Jones. Interview: Rafael Ruelas. Also: Jake Rodriguez, Czyz-Hearns preview, Randall-Chavez II preview.

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Plus: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

March 1996: Whether He Fights Or Not ... Tyson Is Hot! Hot!! Hot!!! Color Pinup: Marco Antonio Barrera. Interview: Jose Sulaiman. Plus: Reggie Tuur, heavyweight prospects, champion's edge.

June 1996: Destined For The Hall Of Fame: Who's In, Who's Out. Color Pinup: Wayne McCullough. Interview: Cedric Kushner. Plus: Danny Romero, Mark Breland, Dynamite Dozen—the next 12.

July 1996: Awesome Again! Tyson Destroys Bruno. Color Pinup: Tyson-Bruno. Interview: Christy Martin. Plus: Chavez-De La Hoya preview, Derrick Gainer, '96 Hall of Fame inductees.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story! Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Plus: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

Nov. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Roy Jones, Roberto Duran, Joe Cortez.

Dec. 1996: Andrew Golota—Taking The Low Road to Stardom. Color Pinup: Mark Johnson. Interview: Rock Newman. Plus: De La Hoya-Gonzalez, Chuck Bodak, bizarre endings, Chavez-Rosario.

Winter 1996: This Is War! Holyfield-Tyson Will Be Explosive ... And Short. Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Plus: Riddick Bowe, David Reid, Holyfield-Qawi.

Jan. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Bowe-Golota II: Hatred And Vengeance ... It's A Beautiful Thing! Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Lou Duva. Plus: Mouse Strauss, heavyweight rematches, Azumah Nelson.

Feb. 1997: KO's 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Plus: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

March 1997: Holyfield's Trainer Tells All! An Inside Look At The Upset Of The Year. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Plus: George Foreman, Lupe Pintor, boxing bill, Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Plus: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Sept. 1997: A Legitimate Grudge Match! Why Romero-Tapia Could Be The Fight Of The Year. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: David Tua. Plus: Ike Quartey, George Foreman, top promoters.

Nov. 1997: Filling In The Missing Pieces: What "The Bite" Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Christy Martin. Interview: Jim Lampley. Plus: Vince Phillips, British prospects, Iran Barkley.

Dec. 1997: Johnny Tapia Outshines Danny Romero: The Defining Moment In A "Crazy Life." Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Frans Botha. Plus: Lewis-Akiwande, Don King, Charles Brewer.

Holiday 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Holyfield-Moorer II: Can Evander Avenge His Ugliest Defeat? Color Pinup: Vince Phillips. Interview: Mills Lane. Plus: Roy Jones, Baby Jake Matlala, Boxing 2000.

Jan. 1998: De La Hoya Humbles The Macho Man: "Oscar's The Best I've Ever Fought." Color Pinup: William Guthrie. Interview: Mark Johnson. Plus: Johnny Tapia, Pinklon Thomas, defense.

Feb. 1998: Is Lennox Lewis The World's Best Heavyweight? Color Pinup: Charles Brewer. Interview: Marc Ratner. Plus: Otis Grant, Arturo Gatti.

March 1998: Evander Holyfield: For The Real Deal, Lewis Is No Big Deal. Color Pinup: Lou Del Valle. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Plus: David Izon, Meldrick Taylor, rapid weight loss.

May 1998: Living Up To The Hype: Sometimes They Do ... Sometimes They Don't. Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Best Of ... (Part III). Plus: Naseem Hamed, Marty Denkin, women's boxing.

June 1998: Lewis vs. Holyfield: Why The Fight Of The Year Isn't Going To Happen. Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Interview: Eddie Futch. Plus: Hector Lizarraga, pain, Head-To-Head review.

Aug. 1998: Lewis Bombs Out Briggs: Would The WBC Champ Do This To Holyfield? Color Pinup: Keith Mullings. Interview: Shane Mosley. Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Marco Antonio Barrera, Roberto Garcia.

Sept. 1998: Can Mike Tyson Make A Successful Comeback? Sugar Ray Leonard Has The Answer. Color Pinup: Michael Grant. Interview: Brad Jacobs. Plus: Naseem Hamed, Wayne McCullough, Kirk Johnson.

Oct. 1998: The Ultimate Fantasy Card. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: Roy Jones. Plus: Brendan Ingle, NYPD boxing, prospect blueprint.

Nov. 1998 The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Tim Austin. Plus: Cesar Bazan, Spencer Oliver, Bobby Czyz.

Dec. 1998: Winning Fights Is Easier Than Winning Fans: Why Can't We Appreciate Roy Jones? Color Pinup: Tim Austin. Interview: Michael Grant. Plus: Christy Martin, Ali Reform Act, one-hit wonders.

Holiday 1998: Toe-To-Toe With The Top 10: Where Does Tyson Fit In? Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Inteview: Larry Hazzard. Plus: Evander Holyfield, junior middleweights.

Jan. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Oscar Eliminates Chazez ... Now The Real Fights Begin! Color Pinup: Yory Boy Campas. Interview: William Joppy. Plus: Mark Johnson, U.S.A. vs. the world.

Feb. 1999: Holyfield & Lewis: Did They Hurt Themselves Before They Could Hurt Each Other? Color Pinup: Andrew Golota. Interview: Angel Manfredy. Plus: Mismatches, Bobby Czyz on watching fights.

March 1999: Exposed! Is Hamed Really Hector Camacho In Disguise? Color Pinup: Mike Tyson. Interview: Joe Frazier. Plus: Zab Judah, Vuyani Bungu, Frankie Randall.

May 1999: The Tyson Of Old ... Or Just An Old Tyson? Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Fernando Vargas. Plus: Antonio Diaz, Sumya Anani, standing eight-count.

June 1999: Will Tyson's Jail Time Be A Career Killer? Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Floyd Mayweather. Plus: Roy Jones, 1999 Hall of Fame, stagnation.

July 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: The Fight The Public Demands ... But Is It Going To Happen? Color Pinup: David Tua. Interview: Tommy Brooks. Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Tony Marshall, best of the century.

Aug. 1999: Lewis vs. Holyfield II: Should We Expect Anything Different Next Time? Color Pinup: Fernando Vargas. Interview: David Reid. Plus: Ibeabuchi-Byrd, Melissa Salamone.

Sept. 1999: Mayeather vs. Mosley: Who's The Future Of Boxing? Color Pinup: James Page. Interview: J Russell Peltz. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Thomas Hearns, Angel Manfredy.

Oct. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Felix Trinidad. Interview: Jake LaMotta. Plus: Tony Ayala, Erik Morales, Junior Jones.

Nov. 1999: De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: "It's Gonna Come Down To Who The Hell Wants It Most!" Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Arturo Gatti. Plus: Roy Jones, Sugar Shane Mosley, Vassily Jirov.

Dec. 1999: David Reid & Fernando Vargas: Olympic Teammates On A Collision Course! Color Pinup: Zab Judah. Interview: Ike Ibeabuchi. Plus: Vitaly Klitschko, Antonio Tarver, Mike Tyson.

Holiday 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Lewis-Holyfield II: Why We Demand A Knockout! Color Pinup: Sharmba Mitchell. Interview: Paulie Ayala. Plus: James Toney, James Page & Terronn Millett, decade review.

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❑ OCT/87	❑ DEC/90	❑ MAR/93	❑ MAR/98	
❑ NOV/87	❑ JAN/91	❑ MAY/93	❑ MAY/98	
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Main Events

(Continued from page 61)

he and my daughter are happy as hell, and I'm happy for them. They're happier than the rest of us."

Boorman said only that he was happy in his new role as a high school teacher. English declined to be interviewed, but he was sitting on the dais instead of Shaw as Main Events' representative at the final press conference before the Lewis-Holyfield rematch on November 13.

Regardless, while Shaw and his bosses try to hold their shrinking empire together, Lou, Dino, and Donna Duva hope to open their own shop elsewhere. Word is they are working on a small promotional deal with a hotel-casino in New Orleans to run some shows, and they believe Whitaker will come along with them.

Lou also has two young amateurs he is bringing with him on his new venture, and, along with Whitaker, their status was reportedly part of the squabbling that slowed the signing of the breakup agreement. Now that those details are mostly ironed out, Lou Duva believes one thing. He believes that, as a new Olympic year dawns, he and Finkel can duplicate elsewhere what they once did for his son.

"It's for the best now," Duva said of the breakup, the sadness evident in the old warhorse's voice. "That's the way my kids feel. It's just time to go. It's a sad thing, but it's time to move on. I'll survive. I got fighters for Main Events, and I'll get them for the new company. I'm not going out of town. If Main Events offers the best contract, I'll go with them. If not, I'll take my fighter to someone else. It's not family anymore. It's business."

Lou Duva, his kids, and his son's widow can all attest to that as they move on toward a new day. For them, boxing ended up being what it's always been for everyone who ever got involved.

It became the hurt business, and this time not just for the fighters. ■

Ron Borges covers boxing for the Boston Globe and is a regular contributor to this magazine.

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(Continued from page 33)

indictment, most of the boxing community is taking a wait-and-see approach.

"I'd hate to see them go to all this trouble and have no effect," Duva said. "It doesn't get us home, but it's the right direction."

Meanwhile, Lee & Co. and some other nervous souls await their eventual fate as this scenario plays itself out. It would be interesting to know how much *they* would pay for anonymity. ■

Tim Graham, a freelance writer based in Las Vegas, is a regular contributor to this magazine.

Jerry Buss

(Continued from page 47)

short of what is really necessary," he said. "What I would really like to see is some type of pension or retirement plan for the fighters. But 95 percent of purses are so small, you can't take anything out. Just a few fighters at the top would be contributing the bulk of the money, and I don't think they would be willing to do it. I just don't see a way to get it done.

"Purses just aren't spread out enough. A few fighters make huge amounts, and the rest make very little money. You're not going to talk [Mike] Tyson, [Evander] Holyfield, [Oscar] De La Hoya, and [Felix] Trinidad into contributing the kind of money they would need to contribute. It would have to be a big hunk of their purse—not just a few thousand—to make it work."

Buss was toying with the idea of maintaining Forum Boxing in some kind of shrunken form, but it didn't seem terribly likely. Clearly, he would welcome a buyer—some white knight to step forward, pay the salaries, and keep it going. But that didn't seem likely either.

"Perhaps the best way to run boxing is to make it a big social event," Buss said. "Charge everyone $100 apiece plus dinner. All you would need then is a basic group of 400 people to come out. There would be smaller staffing and other expenses. Clubfights are the answer, but you have to dress it up."

Always, Buss returns to memories of the fighters.

"I liked a fighter named Grover Robinson," he recalled. "I liked him an awful lot. His wife died, and he had two young children. He worked and raised them. He was really one of the most honorable people I ever met.

"And Michael Dokes, he had a really good sense of humor. He kayoed a guy once, then leaned over and said to me, 'Doc, don't worry. I didn't forget your birthday. I'll give you the present when I get done in here.' And I liked Tommy Hearns. He was quite a gentleman."

Buss named a long list of fighters whose company he enjoyed. And for a while, movie stars like Sylvester Stallone used to frequent Forum shows, adding excitement, the feeling that the cards were important events.

What annoys Buss?

"The judging system," he answered. "I can't tell you how many times I walked out feeling the decision was totally ridiculous, that the other guy won the fight. It turns more people off than anything. Something more objective is needed. It would help a lot."

Notice he named bad judging over the small fact that boxing cost him $7-million. Because Buss is still a fan. ■

Ivan Goldman is THE RING'S ***West Coast correspondent.***

BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Don Scott

Now that 2000 has begun, have you ever wondered about boxing at the beginning of the last century? As you might have guessed, memorabilia from those days is very expensive. In 1900, heavyweight champion Jim Jeffries had an epic battle with former champ Jim Corbett. Collectibles surrounding both of these men are fairly plentiful since both lived relatively long lives, but memorabilia such as tickets, programs, and posters from their fights (they fought again in '03) is extremely scarce and valuable.

Sadly for collectors, the dawn of the 20th century intersects with the decline in popularity of cabinet photos. Cabinet photos were 4½" X 6" cardboard cards with a 4" X 5" photo glued to them (much smaller or much larger mounted photos are not cabinets). They were all the rage during the latter part of the 19th century, but with photos appearing in newspapers and magazines, the mail order sales of cabinets greatly diminished. Later, around 1908, souvenir postcards replaced cabinets as the collectors' favorites. Therefore, there will be two Jeffries cabinets for every cabinet of turn-of-the-century middleweight champ Tommy Ryan found, and 10 John L. Sullivans found for every Jeffries.

Signed photos of Jeffries and Corbett will outnumber Ryan-signed photos, even though Ryan lived until 1948. In fact, Ryan memorabilia is exceedingly difficult to find, and signed photos of him in a fighting pose sell for around $800, approximately the same price you'd pay for a signed photo of Corbett in a boxing pose.

When you go below the middleweight division, it's even more challenging to find turn-of-the-century collectibles. Mysterious Billy Smith, Rube Ferns, and Matty Matthews all held the welterweight title at some point in 1900. I have never seen a Ferns or Smith autograph, but I have a letter written and signed by Matthews and a photo of him signed on the back. Photos of Smith can be found, but they are very rare and will cost collectors $1,000 or more. I have a cabinet, as well as a contract signed by Smith's manager, and a handbill, but Ferns has been invisible to photo collectors.

Frank Erne was the lightweight champion in 1900, and his autograph and photo are more common than those of the welter champs because the lightweight division was more popular in those days. The real heroes of 1900, however, were featherweights Terry McGovern and George Dixon, whom McGovern beat for the crown in the first year of the 20th century. Dixon and McGovern are two of the most sought-after names in collecting. Not only were they boxing legends, both were also involved in vaudeville. Nat Fleischer, founder of THE RING, helped immortalize both. He gave Dixon a prominent feature in his *Black Dynamite* series of books and also wrote a biography of "Terrible Terry."

Prices for Dixon and McGovern collectibles range from approximately $150 for a Dixon photo to $5 for a McGovern tobacco card. One of McGovern's theater programs, however, would go for around $200.

The bantamweight championship was vacated by McGovern in 1900, and it wasn't until 1901 that Harry Harris defeated Pedlar Palmer for the title. Palmer silks can still be found in England where he was very popular. I have a postcard photo of Harris and a photo of him and his wife from her personal collection, but I know of no Harris signatures.

Many of the champions from the start of the last millennium can be found in tobacco card sets from 1895 made by Mayo Cut Plug. A few of them were also included in the Mecca and Hassan T220 sets from 1910 and 1911. The leading sports newspapers of the day were the *New York Illustrated News* and the *Police Gazette*. These were printed on fairly good paper, so many copies have survived and can be found in old book stores and in online auctions. ■

Don Scott is editor of Boxing Collectors' News and can be reached at 3316 Luallen Drive, Carrollton, Texas, 75007, or at his Web site: www.boxingcollectors.com. His email address is donscott@boxingcollectors.com

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of October 1999, the WBC as of September 1999, and the IBF as of September 1999.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	C
John Ruiz (USA)	1	2	3
Michael Grant (USA)	2	6	–
David Tua (NZ)	3	8	1
Wladimir Klitchko (UKR)	4	5	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	5	11	10
Larry Donald (USA)	6	3	4
Hasim Rahman (USA)	7	–	5
Henry Akinwande (GB)	8	1	6
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	9	12	–
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	10	–	–
Oleg Maskaev (UKR)	24	4	–
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	7	8
Derrick Jefferson (USA)	28	9	–
Dick Ryan (USA)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Chris Byrd (USA)	19	–	7
Danell Nicholson (USA)	–	–	9

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	C	–	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	C	–
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	–	–	C
Saul Montana (MEX)	1	1	1
James Toney (USA)	2	–	10
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	3	6	4
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	4	–	–
Alex Gonzalez (PR)	5	8	–
Andre Purlette (GUY)	6	9	5
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	7	7	–
Napoleon Tagoe (USA)	8	–	7
Virgil Hill (USA)	9	2	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	10	–	9
Valery Vikhor (LAT)	–	3	12
Akim Tafer (FRA)	–	4	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	5	–
Ken Murphy (USA)	21	10	–
Alex Gonzales (USA)	–	–	2
Torsten May (GER)	12	–	3
Arthur Williams (USA)	19	–	6
Dale Brown (CAN)	11	11	8

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	C	C
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	8	–
Clinton Woods (GB)	2	11	–
David Telesco (USA)	3	2	8
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	4	–	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	5	–	3
Eric Harding (USA)	6	4	9
Reggie Johnson (USA)	7	–	5
Yawe Davis (ITA)	8	–	–
Antonio Tarver (USA)	9	–	1
Greg Wright (USA)	10	–	–
Richard Hall (USA)	–	1	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	3	7
Derrick Harmon (USA)	14	5	–
Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)	13	6	4
Timo Masua (NZ)	–	7	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	16	9	–
Billy Lewis (USA)	–	10	12
Vacant	–	–	2
Will Taylor (USA)	–	–	6
Lee Osie (SPA)	28	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Richie Woodhall (GB)	C	–	–
Byron Mitchell (USA)	–	C	–
Sven Ottke (GER)	–	–	C
Glenn Catley (GB)	1	–	–
Eric Lucas (CAN)	2	5	11
Bruno Girard (FRA)	3	1	5
David Starie (GB)	4	6	6
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	5	9	3
Mario Velt (GER)	6	4	9
Frank Liles (USA)	7	2	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	8	–	–
Omar Sheika (USA)	9	–	–
Robin Reid (GB)	10	–	–
Craig Cummings (USA)	–	3	–
Manuel Siacca (PR)	–	7	–
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	13	8	–
Mike Makata (NZ)	–	10	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	1
Thomas Tate (USA)	–	12	2
Glenn Johnson (USA)	20	–	4
Bryant Brannon (USA)	–	–	7
Tocker Pudwill (USA)	–	–	8
Sam Leuii (AUSTRL)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Robert McCracken (GB)	1	5	3
Antwun Echols (USA)	2	–	–
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	3	–	9
Kevin Palmer (USA)	4	–	–
Davey Hilton (CAN)	5	10	4
Erland Betare (FRA)	6	–	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	7	–	–
Howard Eastman (GB)	8	2	11
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	9	–	–
Johnson Tshuma (ZIM)	10	12	12
Rito Ruvalcaba (MEX)	–	1	7
Winky Wright (USA)	–	3	–
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	4	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	6	–
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	–	7	–
Ramon Moyano (ARG)	19	8	–
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	13	9	–
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Brian Barbosa (USA)	14	–	5
Andrew Council (USA)	17	–	6
Ali Ennebati (FRA)	11	–	8
Syd Vanderpool (CAN)	25	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Francisco Castillejo (SPA)	C	–	–
David Reid (USA)	–	C	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	–	–	C
Tony Marshall (USA)	1	–	–
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	2	1	–
Roman Karmazin (RUS)	3	8	–
Anthony Jones (USA)	4	10	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	5	2	11
Tony Badea (ROM)	6	–	–
Alfred Ankamah (GHA)	7	–	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	8	3	–
Akira Ohigashi (JAP)	9	–	–
Keith Mullings (USA)	10	–	–
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	–	4	–
Jose Flores (MEX)	–	5	–
Rodney Jones (USA)	15	6	10
Raul Frank (GUY)	–	7	–
Marcos Avendano (VEN)	–	9	–
Winky Wright (USA)	14	–	1
Ross Thompson (USA)	29	–	2
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	30	–	3
Bronco McKart (USA)	17	–	4
Emmett Linton (USA)	–	11	5
Yory Boy Campas (MEX)	19	–	6
Carl Daniels (USA)	11	12	7
Marshall Simpson (GUY)	–	–	8
Raul Marquez (USA)	–	–	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Felix Trinidad (PR)	C	–	C
James Page (USA)	–	C	–
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	1	1	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	2	–	7
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	3	5	11
Vernon Forrest (USA)	4	6	4
Ike Quartey (GHA)	5	7	5
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	6	11	–
Hector Camacho Jr (USA)	7	–	–
Kofi Jantuah (GHA)	8	–	–
Carlos Baldomir (ARG)	9	10	–
Oba Carr (USA)	10	8	6
Andrew Lewis (GUY)	25	2	–
Andrei Pestraiev (RUS)	12	3	–
Michael Trabant (GERE)	26	4	–
Jeff Malcolm (AUS)	–	9	–
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	1
Shane Mosley (USA)	–	–	2
Michael Covington (USA)	–	–	3
Sam Garr (USA)	17	–	8
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	9
Sean Sullivan (AUSTRL)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	C	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	–	C	–

Terron Millett (USA)	–	–	**C**
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	–	–
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	2	4	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	3	–	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	4	8	–
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	5	10	–
Oktay Urkal (TUR)	6	–	7
Jongkil Kim (KOR)	7	–	–
Thomas Damgaard (DEN)	8	5	–
Ahmed Santos (USA)	9	–	–
Mikhail Krivolapov (RUS)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	2
Elio Ortiz (VEN)	–	2	–
Hector Camacho Jr (PR)	–	3	6
Junichi Ono (JAP)	–	6	–
Gabriel Mapuoka (FRA)	22	7	11
Fred Pendleton (USA)	–	9	–
Zab Judah (USA)	–	–	1
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	–	3
Allan Vester (DEN)	23	–	4
Cesar Leiva (ARG)	21	–	5
Vince Phillips (USA)	12	–	8
Hector Lopez (USA)	–	–	9
Ray Oliveira (USA)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	**C**	–	–
Stefano Zoff (ITA)	–	**C**	–
Paul Spadafora (USA)	–	–	**C**
Billy Schwer (GB)	1	5	3
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	2	–	–
Lovemore Ndou (SA)	3	–	7
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	4	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	5	–	–
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	6	3	–
Victoriano Damian Sosa (DR)	7	–	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	8	–	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	9	4	–
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	10	–	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	1	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	17	2	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	12	6	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	–	7	–
Golden Johnson (USA)	–	8	–
Miguel Calist (PAN)	–	9	–
Edson Xuxa Nascimento (BRA)	–	10	–
Billy Irwin (CAN)	22	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Israel Cardona (USA)	–	11	4
Renato Cornett (AUS)	–	–	5
George Scott (SWE)	–	–	6
Ivan Robinson (USA)	13	–	8
Joel Perez (USA)	–	–	9
Stephane Smith (GB)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Floyd Mayweather (USA)	**C**	–	–
Jongkwon Baek (KOR)	–	**C**	–
Robert Garcia (USA)	–	**11**	**C**
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	1	–	–
Jesus Chavez (USA)	2	–	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	3	5	2
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	4	–	–
Kengo Nagashima (JAP)	5	–	–
Dennis Holbaek (DEN)	6	7	9
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	7	–	–
Diego Corrales (USA)	8	–	1
Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)	9	–	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	10	–	–
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	–	1	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	2	–
Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)	–	3	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	4	–
Tontcho Tontchev (BUL)	22	6	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	–	8	–
Ernesto Zepeda (MEX)	28	9	–
Luis Navarro (USA)	–	10	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	14	–	3
Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)	–	–	4
Carlos Hernandez (USA)	–	–	5
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	–	–	6
Harold Warren (USA)	–	–	7
John Brown (USA)	–	–	8
David Santos (USA)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Cesar Soto (MEX)	**C**	–	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	**C**	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	–	–	**C**
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	1	7	–
Takeo Imaoka (JAP)	2	–	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	3	–	–
Injin Chi (KOR)	4	–	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	5	2	5
Takashi Koshimoto (JAP)	6	–	–
Edgar Barcenas (MEX)	7	–	–
Istvan Kovacs (HUN)	8	9	–
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	9	–	11
Augie Sanchez (USA)	10	–	12
Vacant	–	1	2
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	3	–
Richard Carrillo (VEN)	–	4	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	5	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	22	6	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	–	8	8
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	14	10	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	1
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	3
Oscar Larios (MEX)	–	–	4
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	6
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	7
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	9
Frankie Toledo (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	**C**	–	–
Nestor Garza (MEX)	–	**C**	–
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	–	–	**C**
Michael Brodie (GB)	1	7	3
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	2	–	–
Willie Jorrin (USA)	3	–	7
Sergei Devakov (UKR)	4	–	–
Oscar Larios (MEX)	5	–	–
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	6	–	–
Ariston Clayton (USA)	7	–	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	8	–	–
John Johnson (USA)	9	8	10
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	10	–	12
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Vladislav Antonov (RUS)	21	2	8
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	3	–
Yobes Ortega (VEN)	–	4	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	11	5	–
Jose Luis Valbuena (VEN)	–	6	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	–	9	–
Jose Rojas (VEN)	–	10	–
Ernesto Gray (COL)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Andrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	4
Jesus Salud (USA)	–	–	5
Jason Pires (USA)	–	–	6
Sean Fletcher (USA)	–	–	9

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	**C**	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	–	**C**	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	**C**
Adan Vargas (MEX)	1	2	7
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	2	–	5
Hugo Dianzo (MEX)	3	10	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	4	7	–
Johnny Tapia (USA)	5	3	–
Jess Maca (PHIL)	6	11	–
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	7	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	8	–	–
Cruz Carbajal (MEX)	9	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	10	–	4
Vacant	–	1	–
Sahoiu Sithchai Condo (THAI)	–	4	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	12	5	6
Danny Romero (USA)	14	6	–
Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)	–	8	–
Rafael Marquez (MEX)	17	9	–
Bernardo Mendoza (CHI)	–	–	1
Jesus Perez (COL)	24	–	2
Jose Mendoza (COL)	–	–	3
Arthur Johnson (USA)	13	–	8
Pedro Rincon (COL)	–	–	9
Mauricio Martinez (PAN)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
In Joo Cho (KOR)	**C**	–	–
Hideki Todaka (JAP)	–	**C**	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	**C**
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	1	12	3
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	9	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	3	10	–
Eric Morel (USA)	4	3	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	5	1	10
Heriberto Ruiz (MEX)	6	–	11
Genaro Garcia (MEX)	7	–	–
Ricardo Barajas (MEX)	8	–	–
Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)	9	–	–
Masanori Tokuyama (JAP)	10	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	4
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	21	4	–
Akihigo Nago (JAP)	–	5	–
Edison Torres (VEN)	–	6	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	7	2
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	8	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	28	–	1
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	20	–	5
Samson 3K-Battery (THAI)	–	–	6
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	22	–	7
Evangelo Perez (PAN)	–	–	8
Med Lukchaopormasak (THAI)	–	–	9

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Medgoen 3K Battery (THAI)	**C**	–	–
Sornpichai Kratchingdaeng (THAI)	–	**C**	–
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	**C**
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	1	–	–
Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	2	–	11
David Guerault (FRA)	3	6	1
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	4	11	5
Panieng Sasiprabha Okuda (THAI)	5	–	–
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	6	–	–
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	7	–	–
Mike Trejo (USA)	8	12	4
Saen Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	9	–	–
Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)	10	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	1	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	2	10
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	3	–
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	–	4	–
Panieng Okuda (THAI)	–	5	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	–	7	–
Jose Lopez (VEN)	–	8	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	–	9	–
Gilberto Keb Baas (MEX)	13	10	–
Pedro Pena (USA)	29	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3
Fernando Montiel (MEX)	–	–	6
Gerson Guerrero (MEX)	11	–	7
Isidro Garcia (USA)	12	–	8
Zoltan Lunka (TUR)	20	–	9

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	**C**	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	**C**	–
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	**11**	**C**
Yosam Choi (KOR)	1	–	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	2	3	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	3	1	2
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	4	2	–
Bebis Mendoza (COL)	5	–	–
Ridchichai Kiatprabhas (THAI)	6	–	–
Oscar Andrade (MEX)	7	–	12
Sangik Yang (KOR)	8	–	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	9	–	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	10	–	–
Pongsaklek Nakornton (THAI)	–	4	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	18	5	7
Yura Dimas (MON)	–	6	–
Jose Sanjuanelo (COL)	–	7	–
Jake Matlala (SA)	–	8	–
Jorge Arce (MEX)	–	9	–
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (THAI)	–	10	4
Pedro Rodriguez (COL)	–	–	1
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	3
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	–	–	5
Asdrubal Velasquez (COL)	–	–	6
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	12	–	8
Medngon 3K Battery (THAI)	–	–	9
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Wandee Chor Chareon (THAI)	**C**	–	–
Noel Arumbulet (VEN)	–	**C**	–
Zolani Petelo (SA)	–	–	**C**
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	1	10	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	2	–	2
Daniel Reyes (COL)	3	6	6
Satoru Abe (JAP)	4	4	–
Erdene Chuluun (MON)	5	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	6	7	–
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	7	–	–
Udomdet Porpaoin (THAI)	8	8	–
Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)	9	–	8
Fernando Luna (MEX)	10	–	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	1	–
Hurricane Chulun (IND)	–	2	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	3	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	5	–
Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)	23	9	–
Luis Lazarte (ARG)	–	–	1
Mickey Cantwell (GB)	–	–	3
Rocky Palma (JAP)	–	–	4
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	5
Alberto Rossel (PERU)	–	–	7
Rocky Lim (TWN)	–	–	9
Juan Herrera (COL)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

DEMPSEY'S TRIUMPH OVER JESS DYNAMIC

From THE RING, May 1945

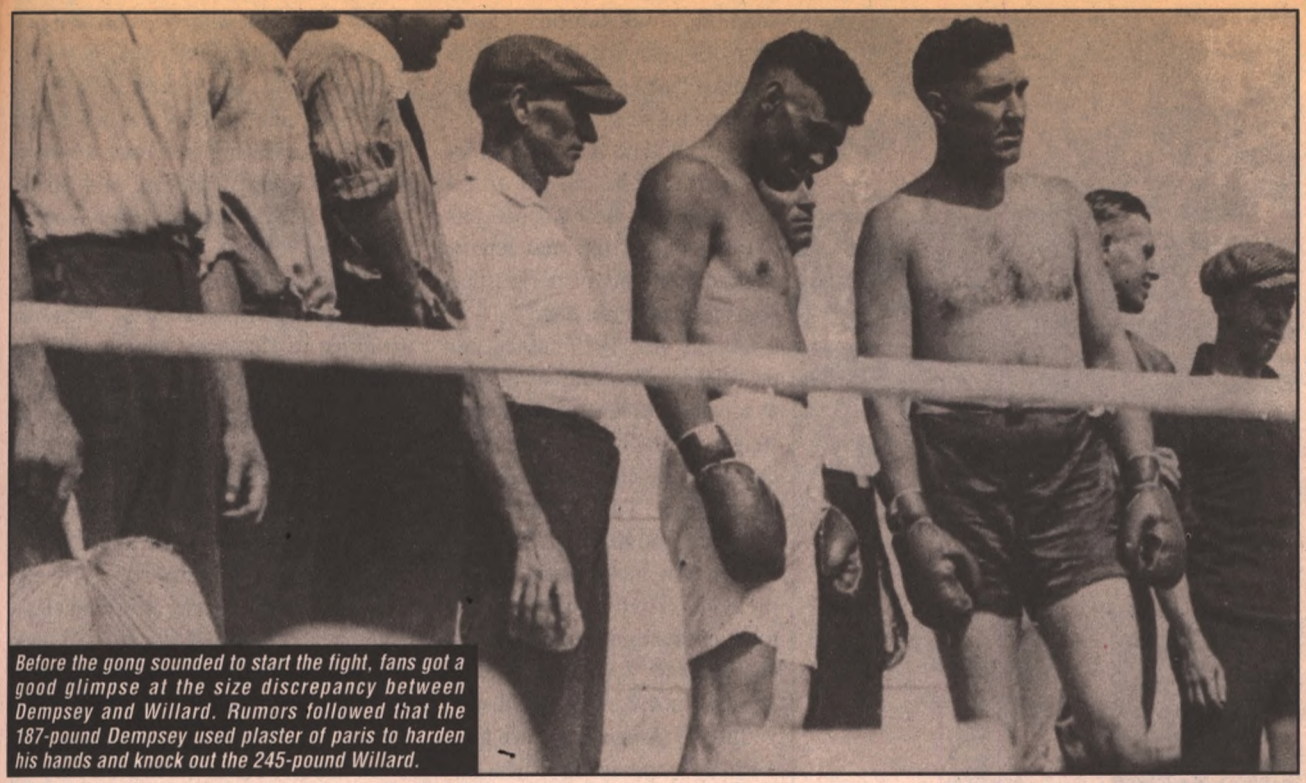
Jack Dempsey as he appeared in his prime. While many consider Dempsey's defeat of Luis Firpo his greatest triumph, others say it was Dempsey's victory over Jess Willard for the heavyweight title that stands above the rest.

Willard No Match For Jack

By Daniel M. Daniel

It was on the afternoon of July 4, 1919, while American, British, French, Italian, and German negotiators still were wrangling over the peace that proved no peace, that Jack Dempsey took the heavyweight championship of the world from Jess Willard by knocking him out in three rounds.

This battle on the shores of muddy Maumee Bay in Toledo, Ohio, was the most dramatic of Dempsey's kaleidoscopic career. Many of the old-timers insist that Jack's two-round knockout over Luis



Before the gong sounded to start the fight, fans got a good glimpse at the size discrepancy between Dempsey and Willard. Rumors followed that the 187-pound Dempsey used plaster of paris to harden his hands and knock out the 245-pound Willard.

Firpo in New York on the night of September 14, 1923, was the most prismatic of all his contests. But this writer saw both fights, as well as Dempsey's triumph over Georges Carpentier, and his defeat by Gene Tunney in Philadelphia, and holds to the impression that the scrap in Toledo took the palm.

It is possible that heavyweight championship fights have been fought on hotter days than the one that saw Dempsey dethrone "The Kansas Behemoth." But it was plenty hot, and then too much, that afternoon by Maumee. For two weeks before the fight, the temperature hovered around 100. The heat wave was not merely local. It gripped the entire continent.

On July 4, Old Sol burned out of blue, cloudless skies. The thermometer was around 103 in the shade, and at ringside, it was something like 120.

Long before the fight got underway, all the pop in the arena had been consumed. We who were at ringside, in the press rows, got Tammany Young to buy a metal wash tub and fill it with water and ice. Tammany ladled out the precious fluid as if he were the water boy for a desert Argosy stricken 100 miles from an oasis.

Under that blazing, relentless sun, the mud flats by the Maumee steamed like Port Said on one of its more robust days. Into torrid Toledo and the arena by the bay came 19,650 persons, who paid $452,225 to see a one-sided affair in which Willard was outclassed from the start. The big man from Kansas never had a chance.

Out of the battle rose quite a few disputes, the most widely debated being the matter of the round in which Dempsey had won the title. Willard finished the third round and, as he sat awaiting the bell for the fourth, threw in a towel. Most argued that since he had gone three rounds, he could not have been stopped in the third. However, ring precedent, backed by the Marquis of Queensberry, held that the rest after any session was part of that round. Thus, while Willard was sitting in his corner after the third, he still was in that round. The official verdict by referee Ollie Pecord finally established Dempsey's success as having been achieved in the third.

There was yet another dispute after the fight, and that never will be settled to everybody's satisfaction. Some pretty wise ring men held that no man weighing 187 pounds could have hit a 245-pounder like Willard with such terrible effect merely through the agency of his fists. There persists the notion that Jack Kearns, Dempsey's manager, sprinkled plaster of paris over Jack's bandages and that this hardened into the consistency of concrete. It never occurred to Willard or his handlers to ask Dempsey to take off his gloves before the fight started, and examine his bandages.

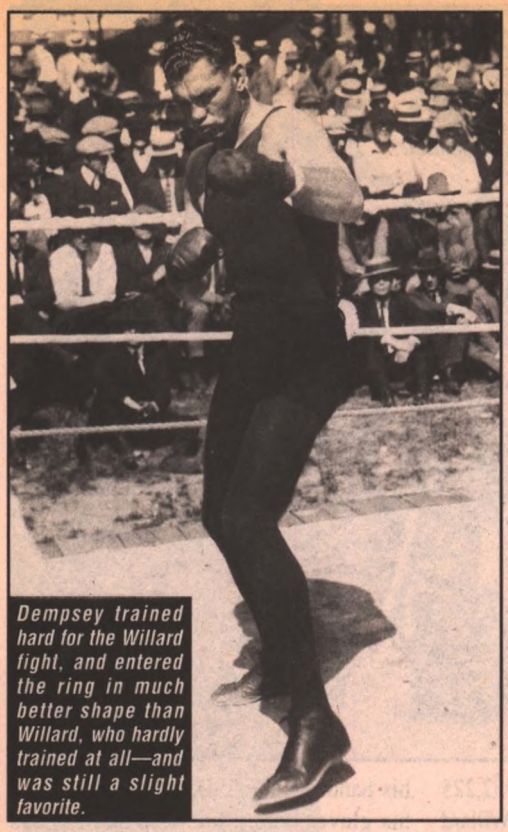
Of course, the plaster of paris stunt was nothing new. It had been worked by the sharpies of the old days, but perhaps never before, and certainly never since, in a fight for the heavyweight championship of the world.

This writer holds to the belief that Dempsey struck Jess with two chunks of concrete. However, Jack did not need any help from plaster of paris or any other such agency. He would have whipped Willard with his bare knuckles.

Willard was all wrong for that fight. The big Kansan never liked the ring. He had a numerous family, and he wanted to be with his children. He had come up the hard way, and doubtless hated to think of the possibility of an injury that might deprive him of the joys of living in some measure of ease and affluence with those kids of his.

Willard was 36 years of age—an old man. Never a really great fighter, he had taken the title from Jack Johnson in Havana at the age of 32, and thereafter had slipped from his zenith in skill and capabilities in the ring.

Dempsey's method of training for the Willard fight was fantastic. Jack worked like a beaver a month behind in his logging



Dempsey trained hard for the Willard fight, and entered the ring in much better shape than Willard, who hardly trained at all—and was still a slight favorite.

with winter coming on. He did a lot of road work, and he did a lot of boxing. When Dempsey climbed through the ropes, he was about as fit as any heavyweight has been for a title fight.

Willard, it developed, had done no road work. He did precious little boxing. There was no snap in his training. His camp gave out reports that he was doing his running at dawn. But the one day a couple of us got up at cock-crow to see Jess on the road, his handlers said he had canceled his leg exercises. It now is an established fact that he never took any. We of the press gang figured that Willard knew he was a goner and did not see any use in running himself ragged.

The champion, weighing 58 pounds more than the challenger, went into the ring a 6-5 favorite. He was 7-5 some 24 hours previous. Nobody knew exactly why. The idea seemed to be to stick with the titleholder, no matter what.

As the day of the battle approached, it was reported that Tex Rickard, promoter of the fight, was having a hard time keeping Jess from going home. There were stories of a secret session in which Willard insisted on canceling the fight, and Rickard was aided by William A. Gavin, of the International Sporting Club—a high sounding, high falutin', purely phony organization that never got as far as birth, in talking Jess into honoring his contract.

Well, Willard *did* show up for the fight, and he *did* put up his dukes—and he most emphatically *did* take one of the most terrific shellackings this writer yet has seen handed out in a ring.

As the year 1919 dashed into the calendar, there was no question as to what was what in the heavyweight class. There was no doubt that there was just one challenger, and he was "The Mauler" from Manassa, John Harrison Dempsey.

Dempsey had entered the ring in 1915, climbing through the ropes direct from the brake beams and box cars. Quite frankly, this Dempsey man had been a hobo.

In 1917, Dempsey created quite a stir by stopping Jim Flynn and beating Gunboat Smith and Carl Morris in four rounders in San Francisco—fantastic affairs little more than exhibitions, but in Jack's case, hailed as near-championship engagements. In 1918, Dempsey really went to work. He was a marked man because of certain developments in his relation to the first World War, in which he was a shipyard worker. Dempsey wanted to enlist. But he was a meal ticket, and those living off him wouldn't let him go.

Toward the close of 1918, Dempsey stopped Smith in two rounds, Morris in one heat, Porky Flynn in one, and Battling Levinsky in three. On July 27, 1918, Dempsey scored a record knockout by stopping "Ferocious" Fred Fulton at Harrison, New Jersey, in 18¾ seconds. Jack was to shave that time later that year by disposing of Morris in 14 seconds.

Dempsey was not allowed to meet any Negroes, and thereby hangs a dispute. There arose a terrific clamor from a distinguished and numerous clique that Dempsey meet the Negro Harry Wills, who in 1918 knocked out Sam Langford and Sam McVey.

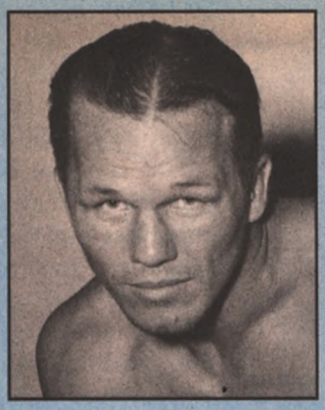
After Jack had won the title, the clamor for a fight with Wills became a little short of a national issue. However, Rickard would not promote a Dempsey-Wills fight, and Dempsey was tied up with Tex. "No real money in a contest between white and Negro," Rickard said, and he kept right on saying it. Rickard was out for million-dollar fights.

At this point, this writer would like to say that he always regarded the Wills issue as unjust to Dempsey, who could have beaten Harry. However, the fact remains that Wills was entitled to his chance at the title, and was the victim of a rank injustice in which the New York Boxing Commission played far from a glorious role. Rickard should have been forced to promote a Dempsey-Wills match.

While Dempsey was crowding all the other heavies out of the title picture, Willard was living a life of ease, now on an exhibition tour, then working with a circus. In 1919, Willard had no fight other than the one with Dempsey. In 1918, Jess did not take part in a single contest. In 1917, Willard also remained inactive, and in 1916, he had only one fight, a 10-round no-decision affair with Frank Moran in New York. A recapitulation shows that after having taken the

Tex Rickard, Dempsey's promoter, insisted that his fighter take easy bouts before his title shot and that he not fight any Negroes. After Dempsey won the title, he was pressured to meet black contender Harry Wills, but Rickard said there was "no real money" in that fight.

THE RING RATINGS, May 1945



Tony Zale

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Louis
1. Jimmy Bivins
2. Lee Q. Murray
3. Lee Oma
4. Joe Baksi
5. Cpl. Melio Bettina
6. Freddie Schott
7. Elmer Ray
8. Jack London
9. Johnny Flynn
10. Buddy Scott

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Gus Lesnevich
1. Lloyd Marshall
2. Fitzie Fitzpatrick
3. Archie Moore
4. Freddie Mills
5. Nate Bolden
6. Georgie Kochan
7. Bruce Woodcock
8. Jack Johnson
9. Bob Jacobs
10. Billy Grant

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Tony Zale
1. Charley Burley
2. Vince Hawkins
3. Joe Carter
4. Jake LaMotta
5. Holman Williams
6. Coley Welsh
7. Henry Chemel
8. Jack Chase
9. Vic Dellicurti
10. Cocoa Kid

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Freddie Cochrane
1. Ray Robinson
2. Fritzie Zivic
3. Tommy Bell
4. Bee Bee Wright
5. Harold Green
6. Chester Slider
7. Jimmy McDaniels
8. Henry Armstrong
9. Rocky Graziano
10. Johnny Greco

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. Bob Montgomery
2. Willie Joyce
3. Beau Jack
4. Ike Williams
5. Juan Zarita
6. Bobby Ruffin
7. Danny Bartfield
8. Pedro Firpo
9. Johnny Thomas
10. Ronnie James

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Willie Pep
1. Sal Bartolo
2. Nel Tarleton
3. Phil Terranova
4. Jackie Wilson
5. Chalky Wright
6. Danny Webb
7. Chico Rosa
8. Carlos Chavez
9. Charley Cabey Lewis
10. Enrique Bolanos

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Manuel Ortiz
1. Tony Olivera
2. Sammy Reynolds
3. David Kui Kong Young
4. Benny Goldberg
5. Lorenzo Safora
6. Jimmy Brady
7. Luis Castillo
8. Norman Lewis
9. Mickey Francis
10. Gregory Escolona

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jackie Paterson
1. Alec Murphy
2. Joe Curran
3. Dado Marino
4. Georgie Parks
5. Stumpy Butwell
6. Tommy Burney
7. Tommy Plowright
8. Hugh Cameron
9. Seaman Terry Allen
10. Johnny Summers

title from Jack Johnson on April 5, 1915, Willard had exactly 10 rounds of fighting before he met Dempsey on July 4, 1919. Precisely 30 minutes of competition in four years.

In justice to Willard, let it be said that he remained inactive through the first World War because, though deferred as oversized and because of his family, he did not believe it right to go on fighting in the ring.

After the defeat by Dempsey, Willard was accused of having shown the white feather. The fact remains that never before had a heavyweight champion let his title pass while he was sitting in his corner, fully conscious and apparently able to go on. I say "apparently able," but there is a question as to whether Jess could have gone on. Actually, he was out sitting on his stool. He really went out in the first round, in which Jack scored seven knockdowns.

The last of these appeared to be the finisher, and Jack jumped over the ropes and headed for his dressing room. Ollie Pecord, the referee, had held Jack's arm aloft in token of victory. However, the timekeeper insisted Willard had been saved by the bell, and Dempsey was hustled back into the ring.

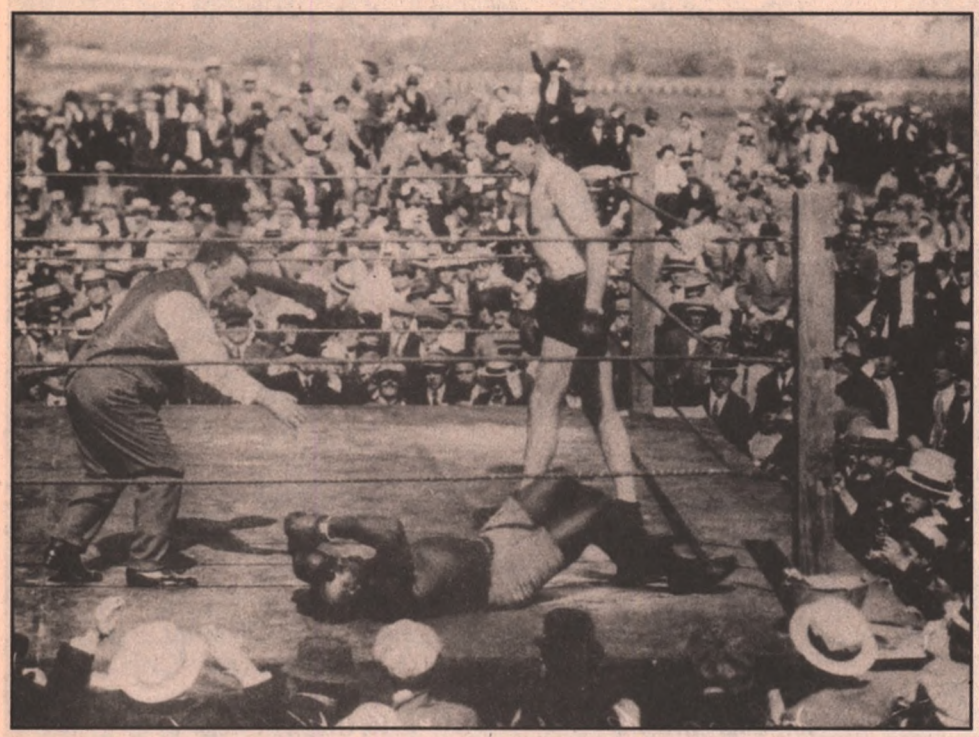
In accomplishing seven knockdowns in one round, Dempsey set a record for a heavyweight contest. Let us see how the thing was done.

Dempsey was handled by Kearns, while Willard's aids were Ike O'Neil and Walter Monahan. As the fight got underway, Dempsey feinted with his right and landed a left to the body. They messed around for a spell, and then Jess whanged a left to the challenger's face. That hurt.

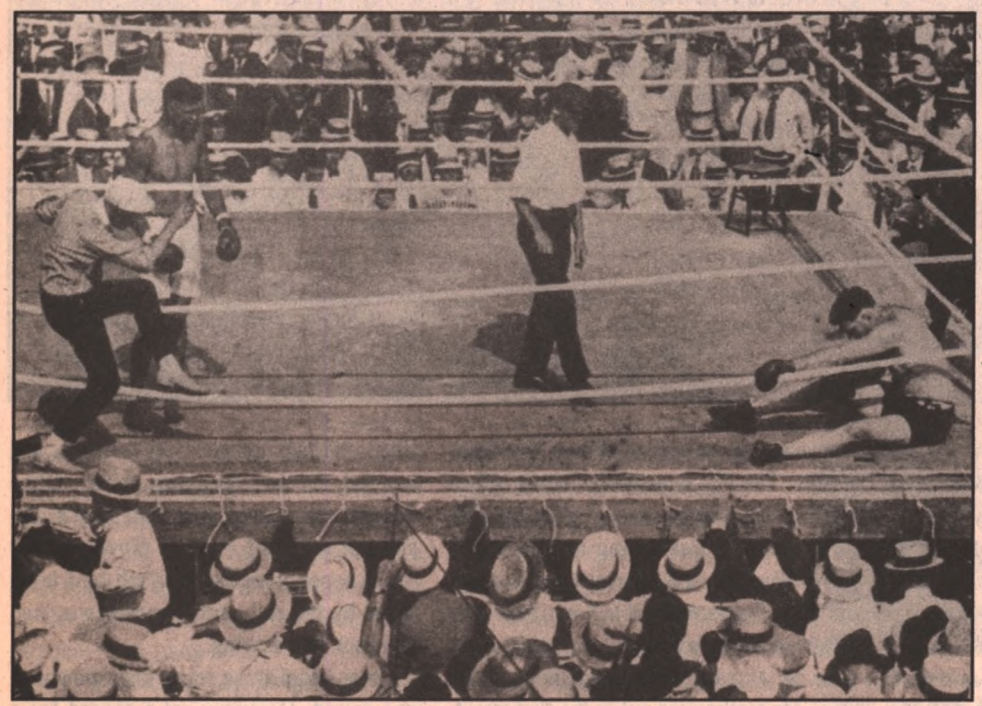
Dempsey got sore and tore after the Kansas giant. Jack stung a left to Jess' right eye and then thumped a hard right over the heart. Willard made a comeback, but not with any telling effect. This was followed by a Dempsey left to the jaw that left Jess quailing in his opponent's corner. That was a very important punch.

Dempsey followed it up with a succession of rights and lefts, and Jess began to sway. His right eye was puffed, and already he was a beaten man. Thus, early in the fight was it quite apparent that sundown would find a new holder of the heavyweight title.

Dempsey took a real cut at the big hunk of man in front of him, an easy, tremendous target, and with a right to the jaw, sent Willard down for the first time in his ring career. Jess lifted himself to a sitting pose. Gradually he arose on one knee, and as Pecord sounded "six," the Kansan got back on his feet.



After beating Jack Johnson in 1915, Willard fought just 10 rounds in four years before he met Dempsey in 1919. Willard did not fight during World War I, even though he avoided military service because he was oversized.



Dempsey wasted little time in tearing down Willard, a big, easy target. With a right to the jaw, Dempsey sent Willard down for the first time in his ring career. Willard hit the canvas a heavyweight-title-fight record seven times in the first round, and three times in the third.

Dempsey tore right back after Jess, and a flurry of about everything Jack had soon put Willard down a second time, for the count of eight. Willard's right eye was closed. His nose was bleeding, his lips were lacerated. He was just about the most gosh-awful sight anybody ever saw in any ring, and he was destined to become much more gosh-awful by the time the third heat had been fought.

A man in his right senses would have taken the count of nine. But Willard wasn't in his right senses. He took the short count in the third and fourth knockdowns, and the crowd began to holler to Pecord to stop the uneven affair.

However, this was a battle for the heavyweight championship of the world. Just so long as the champion was on his feet, taking it—well, he just had to take it.

Down went Jess for the fifth and sixth times, and still his handlers would not throw in the towel. Three lefts to the jaw, and Willard hit the canvas for the seventh time. Willard was sitting on the floor against the ropes in a neutral corner, while Pecord kept tolling off the 10 seconds. At the count of 10, the referee held Dempsey's arm aloft. But the end was not yet. The bell, unheard by Pecord, had come to Willard's "rescue." Rescue hardly is the word. It would have

Willard took such a beating from Dempsey in the first round, his cornermen had to haul him back to his corner. Willard lasted the second round, but quit on his stool after the third.

been just as well if the fight had ended then and there.

Willard's seconds had to haul him to his corner and there they worked feverishly on the giant. They did a good job, because Willard lasted through the second without hitting the canvas again.

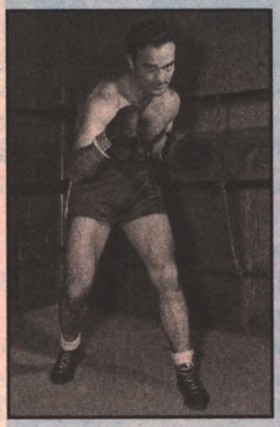
Dempsey was young and still shy on experience, and he had worked himself to a frazzle in that first round. Then, too, he suffered from an anticlimax in the second as he had believed himself a winner in the first.

In any event, Jack tried hard, but could not dispose of his man in the second three minutes of action. In the third heat, toward the end, Willard lifted Jack off the floor with a left uppercut. It was Jess' one and only good punch of the fight. It also was his swan song. Soon the bell rang, and, as Willard sat on his stool, dazed, beaten to a pulp, beaten dangerously. O'Neil tossed in the towel.

Willard's defeat was a fine thing for boxing. He was colorless and hardly a classic contribution to a list of champions that includes Sullivan, Corbett, Louis, Jeffries, and Dempsey. With the rise of Dempsey, boxing charged into a new, more dramatic and more opulent era. He was dynamite, a showman, a great hitter if not a marvelous boxer.

Came the million-dollar gate period, came the "nice people," as Rickard called them, to the ringside. Came tremendous crowds and huge profits. Boxing was on its way to new heights. ■

The Cover: With World War II taking away most of the country's top fighters, THE RING focused on rising California welterweight Jimmy Doyle, who was quickly catching on in the New York City area after an impressive 10-round victory over Frankie Terry. Doyle's career would end tragically, however, when he died after an eighth-round knockout loss to Sugar Ray Robinson in 1947.



The King Of France: French boxing idol Marcel Cerdan, the European welterweight champion, was looking to take on French middleweight champion Robert Charon. While Cerdan was fighting in Africa, Charon became the main draw in France. The two would finally meet in May 1946, with Cerdan winning a 12-round decision.

Full Of Pep: After being criticized for not fighting like a champion in previous bouts, featherweight champion Willie Pep displayed an aggressive style in beating Phil Terranova by unanimous 15-round decision in the first world title fight of 1945.

General Lee: Lee Q. Murray left his military duties aside to take care of Al Hart in a one-sided 10-rounder for his fifth straight victory. The heavyweight was stationed in Washington with the Transportation Corps when he took on Hart and showed the form he had prior to losing to Jimmy Bivins in 1944.

Fighter Of The Month: Lightweight Willie Joyce gained attention with a convincing decision over heavily favored Ike Williams at Madison Square Garden. Joyce had "the best educated left seen in New York in many moons," experts said after the fight.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

HBO'S TWO-PRONGED ATTACK FOR 2000

DiBella: Big agenda for 2000

Executives at HBO are looking to both the past and the future as they unveil two projects on which they intend to focus in the year 2000. The plan that keys off the past is being called their "global heavyweight strategy," and it centers around the old-school, traditional idea of keeping one world champion atop the sport's most important division.

"The heavyweight division is really at an exciting point right now, with **Lennox Lewis** reigning as the undisputed champion," HBO Sports Executive Vice President **Lou DiBella** said. "Our strategy is to keep the title unified. We want to avoid the meaningless mandatories and get the promoters and managers to try to work with the ratings organizations to bring about the biggest and best fights. We want to set up elimination bouts to determine who really deserves the title shots. Lennox Lewis, **Evander Holyfield**, **Mike Tyson**—they're not spring chickens. But there is a group of about six or eight top, young guys who are ready or almost ready to step up and fight for the title.

"A key word in the plan is 'global,' so that includes players like the **Klitschkos [Vitaly** and **Wladimir]**. We're certainly interested in them. Nobody knows who the next guy to lead this division will be, but our goal is to find out."

The other new endeavor HBO is looking to take on in the new year involves a shift toward boxing's future: the young fighters, and the young *fans*. Perhaps as early as March, the network is planning to test out a new weekend afternoon series focusing more on up-and-coming fighters. With many particularly young sports fans unable to stay up late for *World Championship Boxing* and *Boxing After Dark*, and much of the college-age crowd out and about on Friday and Saturday nights, an afternoon show seems a perfect idea to draw in new viewers. The new program, as yet untitled, may also feature more European fighters, since the afternoon hours in the States coincide with prime time across the pond. The show won't have the budget that *World Championship Boxing* has, but that's not necessarily a bad thing.

"If you like the type of fights we show on *Boxing After Dark*," DiBella said, "I think you're going to like this new show also."

LISTEN UP

Norwood: Going back to Japan

Oscar De La Hoya's plan for the year 2000 is beginning to come into view. Word is that he'll fight either on February 26 at Madison Square Garden or on March 11 at Los Angeles' new Staples Center, either against **Derrell Coley** for the WBC welter title if **Felix Trinidad** vacates, or against unbeaten but not overly impressive **Ahmed Katejew** of Russia. He's then tentatively scheduled for a pay-per-view matchup with **Sugar Shane Mosley** on June 17 at the Staples Center ... The atmosphere might have been better in a bull ring in Tijuana, but we'll take it any way we can get it: On February 19 at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, **Erik Morales** and **Marco Antonio Barrera** will finally fight to determine who the best junior featherweight in the world is. HBO will televise the showdown ... Tired of seeing **Naseem Hamed** in boring fights? HBO certainly seems to be, which is why it's now searching out opponents who should make Naz exciting again, even if they don't represent the toughest available opposition. Sometime in the spring, Hamed will take on **Junior Jones**, and in a co-feature to determine Hamed's next opponent, new IBF featherweight champ **Paul Ingle** will meet **Kevin Kelley**. Both Ingle and Kelley made for memorable fights with "The Prince" the first time around, though Kelley seems to have lost several steps since his war with Hamed back in '97 ... In other featherweight action, WBA champ **Freddie Norwood** will travel to Fukuoka, Japan, to defend against fellow undefeated southpaw **Takashi Koshimoto** on January 30. Norwood's last trip to the Land of the Rising Sun didn't go so well, as he forfeited his title on the scales in September '98 before defeating **Koji Matsumoto** ... Unbeaten **Vitaly Klitschko's** people are beating the drums for a meeting with Mike Tyson in Germany in August, but there's been no response yet from Team Tyson. Something tells us "Iron Mike's" camp is just taking it one fight at a time. ■

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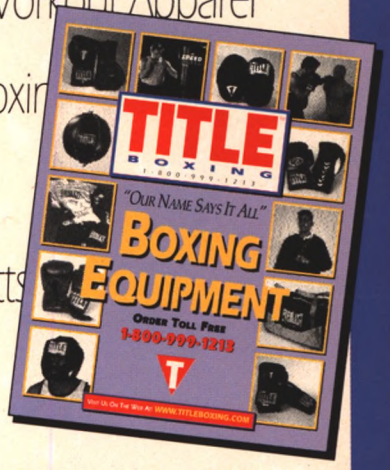

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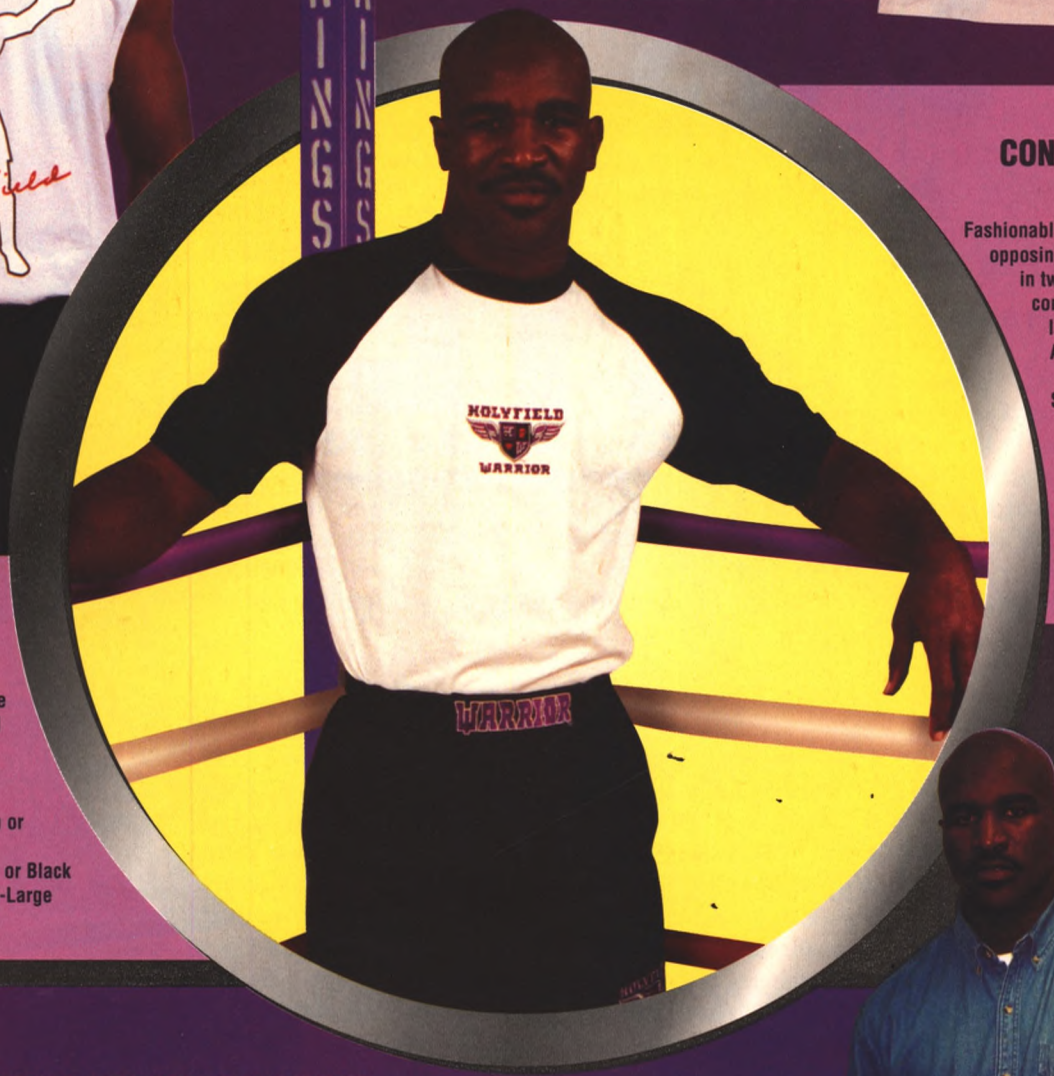

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